

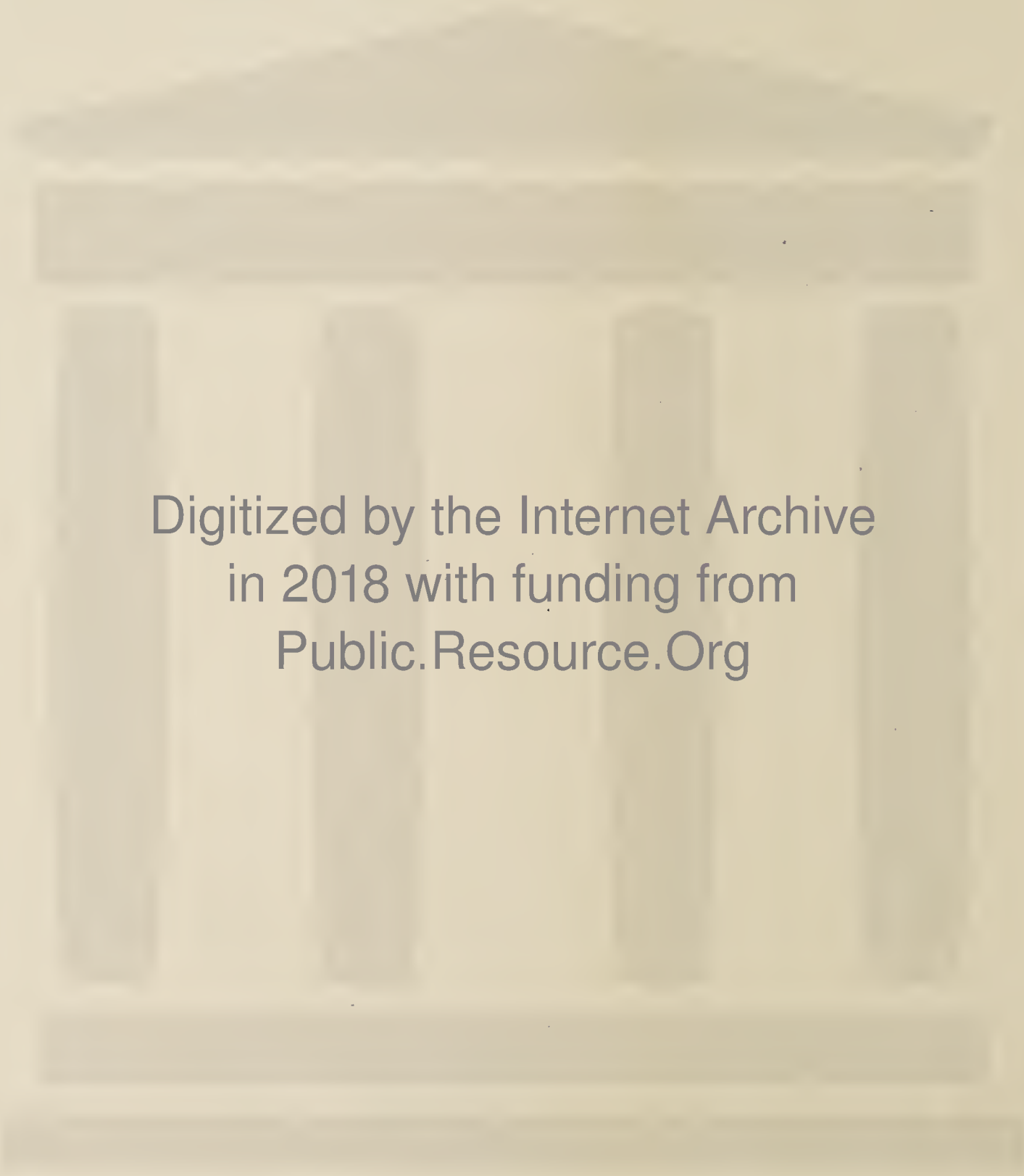
SPEECHES OF PRESIDENT GIANI ZAIL SINGH



Giani Zail Singh who comes from a rural background, has journeyed through various stages of public life to reach the highest position of the President of the Indian Republic. It is, therefore, natural that he identifies himself with the masses and speaks of their longings and aspirations. Words come to him naturally and reach the hearts of his listeners who include people from all walks of life.

Covering a vast spectrum of topics concerning the role of the Indian people in the development of the country, these speeches have one thing in common—the concern for the common man.

This book is in succession to its sister volumes of the selected speeches of the Presidents of India—beginning with the one on Dr Rajendra Prasad, brought out by the Publications Division. It is hoped that this collection of the Selected Speeches of President Giani Zail Singh (1982-84) will be well received by individuals and agencies engaged in the process of national reconstruction.



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SPEECHES
OF
PRESIDENT
GIANI ZAIL SINGH

SPEECHES
OF
PRESIDENT
GIANI ZAIL SINGH

VOLUME I

(1982—1984)

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About This Volume

The esteemed Institution of President of Indian Republic is symbolic of strong, united and well integrated nation. Our country is fortunate to have had highly learned scholarly intellectual and right thinking men to adorn this high office. The story of Rashtrapati Bhavan beginning with the first President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, to the present occupant, Giani Zail Singh, is the story of our advancement on various fronts. What the President speaks covers and reflects times and tides and changing moods of the nation, as it marches ahead on the path of progress.

Through the speeches of the President one can well understand and judge the progress of the country as it advances in economic, social, cultural, scientific, technological and other important spheres.

For the convenience of readers this volume of selected speeches of Giani Zail Singh has been codified under ten chapters. They are National Affairs, Economic Development, Social Welfare, Education, India and the World, Art and Culture, Science and Technology, Mass Media, Tributes and Miscellaneous.

Since some of the speeches deal with more than one subjects or topics the groupings under various chapters have been done on the basis of their emphasis and impact.

The volume does not claim to be a complete record of the speeches of President Giani Zail Singh. An attempt has been made to cover comparatively more significant public addresses made during the period 1982-84.

— Editor

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National Affairs

Improve Productivity to Achieve Goals

TOMORROW WE CELEBRATE the 35th anniversary of our Independence. It was on this day, thirtyfive years ago, that India awoke to life and freedom. On this happy occasion, I greet you all my fellow citizens, at home and abroad, and extend to you my good wishes. It is my privilege to speak to you and share some of my thoughts with you.

On this day we remember with gratitude the great sacrifices made by our people during the freedom movement to achieve political emancipation from foreign rule. I salute all those who participated in this unique movement in the history of mankind. I had the privilege of serving the freedom movement under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, Father of the Nation, and great freedom fighters like Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Dr. Rajendra Prasad and other stalwarts. With the framing of the Constitution our founding fathers laid solid foundation of our democratic polity. This has been strengthened all these years and our democracy has now acquired a high degree of maturity.

We have inherited a great cultural tradition. Through the ages we have developed a composite culture to which various sections of our people professing different faiths and speaking different languages have made their contribution. Our nation is a shining example of unity in diversity. It is our sacred duty to strengthen the cultural ties that bind this nation together. I appeal to you all on this occasion to join in this noble effort and strengthen the spiritual and cultural foundations of the nation.

We are striving to achieve economic freedom through planning, guided by the objective of economic growth with social justice. The basic direction had been set for the nation by Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, who firmly believed in the efficacy of planning for the social and economic development of our country. In recent years, we have successfully launched many schemes for the benefit of the poor and the downtrodden with encouraging results. There is still a long way for us to travel for the removal of poverty, hunger, unemployment and disease and for raising further the living standards of our people, so that every one is assured of food, clothing, housing, literacy and medical facility.

As a nation, we are moving forward in the direction of strengthening the basic principles of socialism, secularism and democracy which are accepted and cherished by us. We have good reason to feel proud of our achievements, particularly in the preceding two to three years. The pace of progress has, however, to be quickened and all of us have to work shoulder to shoulder

with a sense of unity and dedication. We have to fight against various impediments in the path of progress. This fight is not against an individual or group, but against the forces of communalism, casteism and regionalism. We can hope to achieve success only with the whole-hearted cooperation of our people in this national effort.

This year is being observed as the year of productivity. Industrial production has increased considerably in recent years assisted by better performance of the infrastructure. In 1981-82, the country achieved an industrial growth of more than 8% thanks to the combined efforts of workers, technicians and managers. On the food front, our agricultural base has become strong enough, due to the sustained efforts of our farmers, aided by agricultural scientists and administrators, to ensure increasing production. 1981-82 recorded an all time high foodgrains production.

I have no doubt that in this year of productivity we shall further improve on this performance, in industry as well as agriculture. India occupies a pride of place among technologically advanced countries in the world. Indian experts are working in almost all parts of the world. We are proud of the achievements of our scientists and technologists. These are very encouraging trends which need to be consolidated further and sustained with hard work. Increasing production through continuous hard work and discipline is the only sure way to provide better living standards for our people. Given the resource base at our command, in terms of both men and material, it will not be difficult for our hard working people to achieve higher levels of production and productivity. The need of the hour is a national effort with a single-minded devotion and a sense of urgency to do the best in every field.

The country faces a testing time. Although the economy has improved, we cannot afford to sit back. Higher production remains our basic need, for which every one must put forth his or her best effort. Public servants must be sensitive to the people's difficulties. The Government and the people must work together in a spirit of unity. The good of the country must be placed above sectarian ends. With such a sense of purpose, we can show the world that there is no challenge that the Indian nation cannot meet and overcome.

Our defence forces, officers and men, have been doing an excellent job in guarding our frontiers and maintaining constant vigilance. In particular our brave jawans deserve the nation's appreciation for their keen sense of patriotism and devotion to duty.

In international relations today, there are tensions and conflicts. Our Government, in pursuance of our traditional objectives of peace and goodwill, are trying to reduce tensions in the world. We are a peaceful nation and we have always advocated peaceful methods for settling international disputes and promoting a just and equitable economic order. We have

steered clear of power blocs and pursued a path of non-alignment. I would like to reiterate my Government's resolve to work ceaselessly for achieving these objectives. It is a matter of satisfaction that India's initiative in strengthening the non-aligned movement has strengthened the forces of peace throughout the world. We want to maintain and strengthen friendly relations with all nations, on the basis of mutual respect and cooperation. India's efforts to herald a new international economic order based on equity and justice have particularly contributed to the strengthening of ties with the countries in the third world with whom we share common aspirations for social and economic development.

The future of mankind depends on mutual cooperation and goodwill among nations. Science and technology must be harnessed for the common benefit of mankind, rather than for purposes of destruction. Thus alone, can mankind ensure its survival and progress.

This is the first occasion for me, after assuming office of the President of India, to speak to you, my fellow citizens, directly. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the affection showered upon and trust reposed in me and hope that you will continue to extend your generous cooperation.

Torch of Life

I AM VERY happy to visit this prestigious School which has pride of place in India. I have many friends who hail from this school and I have heard a great deal about it. However, this is the first time I am visiting it and I thank you for having thought of me. But for this I might never have had this privilege.

It was only a short time back that there was a reference in the Rajya Sabha to the different amenities enjoyed by different schools in India. It was bitterly said that there are schools which only the rich can afford to send their children to and there the students have comfortable and luxurious life. In contrast it was pointed out that some schools have no amenities and therefore, their products cannot stand in competition. I could not help mentioning that I went to a school where we sat on gunny bags sewn together to make a covering for the floor and there were no benches or desks. It was then that Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, our Foreign Minister (who is incidentally one of my former pupils) said that he attended classes where the boys had to stand as they had nothing to sit upon—not even gunny bags. I

nearly interjected that Emerson points out in his famous sketch on education that the Roman rule was to teach a boy nothing, that he could not learn standing. I desisted, because tempers were getting frayed. Of course, the great teachers of Greece and even India taught in the open air. Plato, Aristotle and the Indian law-givers all had open air classes. It has been very properly said that the scholar who cherishes the love for comfort is not fit to be deemed a scholar. Justice Ranade, one of our most famous Judges, it is said, read by the light of a street lamp because he had no light at home. Some years back I was in one of the American Universities where the students are so pampered that they go to lectures by escalators. The Dean, who accompanied me said that the classes were very thin when there was a breakdown of electricity, so used were the students to this comfort.

Good education does not depend upon the extent of the comfort that goes with teaching. It depends on the quality of teaching and the way in which knowledge is imparted and with what aim in view. The approach to the problem of education differs from country to country. In England, specially in the older Universities, the emphasis still is on the broadening of the mind and giving the student an ideal for which he strives. On the other hand sometimes in America education is made more or less a business asset. There is more in it as an accessory for the job to be done and less as an intellectual experience in which the student begins to share the wisdom of the ages. Education in the first case is a rich experience and in the other a mere tool.

In America education has to have this character because, if I may again tell you from Emerson, after education has gone far, says he, such is the expensiveness of America that the best use to put a fine person to is to drown him to save his board. This means that education must subserve only one end and that is how to earn one's living. Therefore there is so much specialization that if you once draw away the specialist from his field, he appears to be uneducated. I had this experience when on board the ship on my return from a trip to England, we had a quiz programme. Persons entered countrywise, two for each country. I was one representing India and there were two PLO 420 professors for America. I am glad to say that India was second to Australia but America was last.

I agree with Bertrand Russell that modern education has really become the chief obstacle to natural intelligence and freedom of thought. Of course Russell was a sceptic and indeed his observation is in his Sceptical Essays but what he says next is true enough. He described the finished product of our institutions as possessing a kernel of instinct surrounded by a vast husk of education. We see every day that persons with natural gifts succeed without education where much education without such gifts fails to give results. Education comes not only from schools and universities. It comes from almost anywhere. Indeed the whole of Nature is one big school for

those who have eyes to see. Everyone you meet can teach you something. Aristotle said he learnt wisdom even from fools by avoiding what they did and their mistakes.

Our schools and colleges attempt to make all students intellectually equal but do not succeed. Education itself, even if uniformly given to all makes for inequality. This inequality arises from individuality, from one's own success, from talent and natural genius. True education results in more inequalities than standardisation because the capacity of persons to benefit is very different. Just as technical education aimed to make for excellence in manual labour fails to make equal performers, so also does scholastic education.

In India we never give a periodic look at education to see how our present scheme is productive of good or bad results. We also do not assess the performance of different institutions to be able to take ameliorative measures in respect of weaker institutions. Richer institutions receive more patronage and poorer institutions more neglect. The poorer institutions fail for want of equipment in which I include the teachers as well. We have not thought in terms of equal opportunity to all schools. We always say that funds do not permit more aid to schools. But as someone said, nations borrow billions of dollars for war but no nation borrows for education. Nations keep on adding newer and newer weapons by borrowing here and borrowing there but not for education which civilizes man and in the long run can prevent wars.

Added to these disadvantages which education generally faces there are problems of indiscipline, interference by politicians and apathy both at home and among teachers. Thanks to our politicians, students have learnt the politics of agitation and practise it even while at school. I shall tell you how I handled one such case as Chief Justice of Nagpur High Court. The method was somewhat unorthodox but the result was very satisfactory.

In a school demonstration the students smeared the chair and table of the Head Master with muck and also threw some on his clothes. The ring-leaders were rusticated. Promptly the parents or guardians asked for a writ to cancel the order. I asked my Court Reader to get a cane and keep it in my chambers. When the case came up for hearing I saw the little fellows sitting at the back with their parents and guardians. I asked the latter what they had done to chastise their wards adding that I would have thrashed my son if he had done such things. They kept quiet. I told them that the best solution of the case would be that they give a little caning to the boys and the order of rustication should then be withdrawn. The Advocate General, the Inspector of Schools and the Head Master all agreed. To cut the matter short, each father or guardian gave six strokes with the cane which was brought forth and the order of rustication was withdrawn. The smiling parents and guardians thanked me and smilingly took away their

whimpering wards. Only the Head Master said that if there was not a ban on such punishment we would not have heard of the case.

Lord Parker, Lord Chief Justice of England, was all for bringing back the cat. I am precisely of the same opinion. Many offences like eve-teasing, black marketing, adulteration of food will be fewer if the Whipping Act repealed out of deference to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights were brought back again on the statute book. No boy will indulge in eve-teasing if he were to be publicly caned in front of the girls of that school or college.

Coming to these exclusive schools one can say that they have more discipline because the students respect their institution and do not besmirch its reputation. Such schools also keep a close watch on the alumni and thus grows a healthy atmosphere all round. They do generate a feeling of snobbishness which I admit I too suffer from whenever it is a question of other colleges. Every year I run to the Who's Who to see if my college has bagged a Nobel Prize. No other college has such a record which exceeds France and Italy put together. I am glad that this year it is Professor Kugel, last year it was Kapitza and before that it was Mead and so on almost from year to year. We wish to shine in reflected glory but who can blame us if it is the love and respect for our alma mater. I am so happy that this school can boast of many names and I do not begrudge them because I sat on gunny bags for my education and had not the amenities I see all round me. I wish the school continued success in all its enterprises.

I am here because our President could not keep this engagement. It is a matter of great pleasure and satisfaction that he has recovered and will soon be with us. I am sure he will be very happy to visit your institution in the future.

The Tasks Ahead

I WELCOME YOU to this first session of Parliament in 1983. The year ahead is full of challenges and opportunities, which will require the united efforts of Parliament, Government, and the people.

On the economic side, the need is to tone up the economy, enhance production and productivity, eliminate non-productive expenditure and contain prices. In the midst of inflationary pressures in several countries, we can take legitimate pride in our success in containing inflation. Wholesale prices in mid January 1983 were only 2.8 per cent higher than 12 months

earlier. And this in spite of widespread drought affecting 48 million hectares and 312 million (31.2 crores) people. The public distribution system was expanded and made more efficient. About 50,000 fair price shops were opened in the last three years. This year the Central Government would be releasing to the States about Rs. 7,000 million (Rs. 700 crores), the highest in any year for relief to victims of drought, floods and cyclones. Our sympathies go to the people hit by these natural calamities and we admire their courage and the sense of duty of relief workers.

The performance of our infrastructure and our industry has maintained improvement. Between April and December 1982, power generation rose by 7.2 per cent and production of coal by 4.2 per cent, cement by 10.2 per cent and fertilizers by 9.6 per cent. The railways increased the movement of freight by 3.5 per cent. The ports have, by and large, eliminated the waiting time of vessels. There has been a recovery in steel production. The high prices of oil continued to be a burden on the economy, but domestic production of crude during the period rose by 30.6 per cent. Against 10.5 million (1.05 crores) tonnes in 1980-81, production was 16.2 million (1.62 crores) tonnes in 1981-82 and is anticipated to be 21 million (2.1 crores) tonnes in 1982-83. In spite of the difficulties of balance of payments, unfavourable seasonal conditions, and the severe constraint on resources, the economy achieved reasonable growth for a second successive year. The turnover of public sector has increased by 21 per cent in the first nine months of the current year. There has been significant expansion in the small industry sector which has maintained a rate of growth of around 10 per cent. Despite the problems faced by kharif and rabi, procurement of rice and wheat was higher than in any previous year. Government have given farmers the benefit of higher procurement prices.

The increase in exports is being maintained. In the first seven months of the current financial year exports are expected to be about 17.8 per cent higher than the provisional figure of Rs. 39,600 million (Rs. 3,960 crores) in the corresponding period of the previous year. The trend towards rapid increases in imports has been curbed. Although the overall import bill may show a rise to meet the developmental needs of our economy, it will be possible to check the growth of imports further with the accelerated programme of oil exploration and production and increased investments in other sectors such as steel and fertilizers. Prices of the raw materials which developing countries export have fallen sharply, while the prices of manufactured goods which we import have gone up considerably. The high interest rates in the West have further aggravated the situation for countries like India.

The world is going through a critical economic period. Many countries are in the grip of recession and have been cutting down investment. We, however, were able to maintain the tempo of our development. Central Plan outlay has increased by 27 per cent and the total outlay on Central

and State Plans put together has gone up by 21 per cent. The Revised Twenty-Point Programme, which was announced on 14 January, 1982 with its emphasis on the service of the poor and the weak, has shown heartening results. This year, more than 330 million additional man days of rural employment will be generated under the National Rural Employment Programme. There has also been significant spurt in the activities of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission and efforts have been consciously made to link these with the overall effort towards rural employment. Drinking water facilities have been extended to a further 24,000 problem villages. More than 540,000 house sites have been provided. Loans from the Housing and Urban Development Corporation will help the construction of 225,000 dwellings. An additional irrigation potential of 2.35 million hectares is being created during the year.

As a token of the debt which the nation owes to persons who brought us freedom, the Government have enlarged the Freedom Fighters' Pension Scheme.

Government are vitally concerned with the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and have evolved a three-pronged strategy. This consists of the Special Component plans of State Governments and Central Ministries, special Central assistance in addition to the States' Special Component plans, and the Scheduled Castes Development Corporations. Special Central assistance for tribal sub-plans has been stepped up from Rs. 850 million (Rs. 85 crores) to Rs. 950 million (Rs. 95 crores) for 1982-83.

The social and economic advancement of the economically weaker sections and of the backward classes of our society will continue to be given priority in Government's development programmes. A Centrally sponsored scheme of fishermen's insurance has been launched.

There was a surge of popular support to and participation in the Family Planning Programmes. During the period April 1982 to January 1983, the number of acceptors of all family planning methods was 16% higher than that of the corresponding period of the previous year. Programmes for the control of leprosy, blindness and tuberculosis are being implemented with renewed vigour under the Revised Twenty-Point Programme.

Our concern for industrial workers equals our concern for agricultural workers and farmers. The amendments to the Industrial Disputes Act provide for internal machinery to settle grievances and ensure that labour courts give decisions within a stipulated time.

Programmes and strategies for improving the quality of education, eradicating adult illiteracy and universalising elementary education in the age group of 6-14 continued to receive high priority with special emphasis on the education of girls.

Two significant events of last year which will have a far-reaching impact on the future of our young people, and their physical and mental alertness, are the creation of a Department of Sports and the successful holding of Asian Games. The manner in which the Games were organised has been widely acclaimed. The construction and upgradation of 17 stadia and sports facilities conforming to international standards proved our capacity to rise to major challenges. This infrastructure will serve our sportsmen and sportswomen in the years to come.

The Games also provided the occasion for the extension of television to many new areas and the introduction of colour telecasting. Our television policy will give special attention to the needs of our rural population and the utilisation of this powerful medium for education and development.

It has been an eventful year for our science and technology. We have formulated and announced a Technology Policy Statement setting out the considerations that will guide our decisions in the development of indigenous technology and the import of such technology as will strengthen us. We shall pursue our search for technological self-reliance. We are paying attention to both basic science and to new areas like bio-technology, immunology, fast breeder technology in nuclear science and ocean engineering. Our second scientific expedition is now in Antarctica continuing important experiments and surveying the area for setting up a permanent manned station in future. Our work in the survey of polymetallic nodules on the ocean floor has been rewarded with our recognition, at the Conference of Law of the Sea, as a pioneer investor. We are the only developing country so recognised.

INSAT-1B which will be launched this year will help us to attain a high level of telecommunication, television and meteorological capability. It will incorporate the modifications required in the light of our experience with INSAT-1A, the basic design of which was sound.

Honourable Members are aware of the problems we faced in ensuring continuity of fuel supplies for our Tarapur nuclear power reactor. These have now been sorted out in consultation with the Governments of France and USA.

I shall now turn to the domestic political scene. Divisive and disruptive forces are at work fomenting violence and weakening the national fabric. These must be fought resolutely. Government have taken the initiative to associate the Opposition in discussions on major issues like those relating to Assam and the Punjab, and this welcome trend must continue. Communal and anti-national elements have been indulging in objectionable activities in many areas and these will have to be effectively curbed. Extremist organisations have been active in certain north-eastern States and territories. We have adopted a well-coordinated drive to combat

these activities and maintain peace and normalcy. Meanwhile the tempo of development effort all over the north-eastern region has been stepped up.

Elections have recently taken place in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tripura and the Union Territory of Delhi and in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and West Bengal earlier. Polling has just concluded in Meghalaya and is in progress in Assam. These elections have been part of our democratic tradition and a constitutional obligation.

The international situation has deteriorated. The escalation of foreign military intrusion in the Indian Ocean in disregard of the wishes of littoral States, the continuing war between Iran and Iraq, the increasing recklessness of Israel and the sufferings of the Palestinians, the aggressive acts of the racist regime of South Africa against its own people and its neighbours and the lack of progress in the Disarmament Talks and in North-South dialogue are all matters of concern. Political solutions are yet to be found to the situations in South-West and South-East Asia.

Certain developments in our neighbourhood have worsened our security environment. The entire nation is exercised over the acquisition of sophisticated weaponry by our neighbour, Pakistan. Our own policy has been to pursue initiatives and improve relations with our neighbours. It is hoped that the meetings that have taken place with the President of Pakistan and between officials of the two countries will eventually lead to the conclusion of an enduring relationship of peace, friendship and cooperation.

We have also had talks with the Chief Martial Law Administrator of Bangladesh. These have led to a strengthening of friendly relations. The third round of official-level talks with China on the boundary question and other bilateral matters took place in Beijing last month. Our relations with Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka have maintained their even course.

Our policy of non-alignment has helped us to work unswervingly for the objectives of peace, friendship and stability throughout the world and in our region. As Honourable Members are aware, the Seventh Conference of Non-Aligned Countries will take place early next month in New Delhi. We are playing host to it at the unanimous request of the non-aligned community. It will be the largest gathering of Heads of nations to be held in our country. It is our ardent hope that the summit will make an important contribution to the solution of the problems besetting the international community. Later in the year another major conference is being held in the Capital—the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. We must put all our energies into the task of making a success of both these conferences.

I should also refer to the visits of my predecessor to Ireland and Yugoslavia and of our Prime Minister to the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia,

the United States of America, Japan, Mauritius, Mozambique and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the visits to India of the Presidents of Tanzania and Greece, King of Bhutan, the Presidents of Mozambique, Algeria, Nauru, Pakistan, France, Egypt and Nigeria, the Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom, Nepal and Mauritius, the Chairman of the P.L.O., the Chief Martial Law Administrator of Bangladesh as well as other statesmen. These exchanges have been of mutual benefit.

Hon. Members, the economic and political crises in the world have led to a sharpening of tensions which India can withstand only through vigilance, unity and the optimal use of its own productive capacity. Apart from fighting corruption and inefficiency, it must be ensured that differences are not aired in a manner which provokes violence or weakens our secular democratic fabric. In the last three years we have been able to maintain stability and progress. It is my earnest entreaty that the entire nation will work together to maintain India's integrity and enhance its welfare and good name.

I urge Honourable Members to approach the vital tasks before them in a spirit of cooperation and harmony. I wish you all success in the budgetary, legislative and other business that awaits you.

National Integration

I AM GLAD to be here today and to talk to you. Though this area is familiar to me earlier as Home Minister, this is my first visit here as President of India. You are all engaged here in the sacred task of protecting the unity and integrity of our motherland. It is sacred because the progress and prosperity of people depends upon peace and stability for which you are all working with determination and dedication.

Mizoram is a beautiful area with dynamic and valiant people with their traditional customs and cultural patterns. In recent years, Mizoram has registered considerable economic progress also. There is a vast potential for future growth, and I am sure this potential will be developed steadily for the benefit of the people of Mizoram. The essential pre-requisite for economic development is peace and stability. For there cannot be orderly progress in the midst of disorder and indiscipline. The fruits of economic progress can reach the people only in an environment of peace and a climate of goodwill. You are here as guardians to maintain peace and stability. I feel heartened to note the progress you have achieved in

maintaining peaceful conditions. The success of our efforts is visible in the economic progress that has become possible to achieve in these last couple of years.

You are all working here as one team, though you come from different parts of the country. This sense of belonging to one country and spirit of oneness should be strengthened further. Your working here is the best example of national integration. On your success depends the progress and prosperity of the people here. I appeal to all of you to continue working in the same team spirit with single-minded devotion so that people can pursue their activities and occupations peacefully and profitably.

I am quite aware of your problems and difficulties. I also know that Government are trying to do their best to solve them. Wherever you work, I would like to assure you, that the entire country is behind you and with you.

I thank you for giving me this opportunity to meet you and talk to you. I wish you all well in future.

Social Awareness

I AM GLAD to be here today and to participate in the foundation laying ceremony of Arunachal Pradesh Assembly building.

Arunachal Pradesh now is only a decade old, since it attained the status of a Union Territory in 1972. Now you have a separate Legislative Assembly with a Council of Ministers. Thus in a matter of ten years Arunachal Pradesh has become fully democratised with representative institutions administering the affairs and meeting the needs of the people.

The concept of representative form of government is the essence of India's ancient traditions of polity, be in the plains or in the hilly areas. The voice of the people was always taken into consideration by the prevailing political system. In ancient India, there used to be Panchayati Raj system at the grass root level supporting the entire political superstructure. With the attainment of national Independence the message of democracy—message of freedom and equality—has become the cornerstone of our political framework. Democracy is not a mere political technique of statecraft, but a live social philosophy with social awareness and discipline which makes for a creative living and fulfilment. We are engaged in

Speech at the foundation stone laying ceremony of the New Assembly Hall Building, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, May 2, 1983

building up a new society deriving its strength from the millions and millions of our people through a network of democratic institutions from village upwards to the national level. The Panchayati Raj institutions have been revived for enabling the people to participate in the decision making and implementation.

Our country is the largest democracy in the world. Over the last more than 30 years, democracy has taken deep roots in our soil and democratic institutions reflect the aspirations of our people and strengthen the bonds of national unity. I feel very happy to note that Arunachal Pradesh with its democratic institutions like the Legislative Assembly and Council of Ministers is well set on the road to progress and prosperity. People of Arunachal Pradesh have already exercised their franchise in 1978 in the elections to the Assembly and have now a full-fledged elected Legislative Assembly and Council of Ministers. I hope that with the completion of the Assembly building, the roots of democracy will become more stronger and contribute to the progress and prosperity of the people.

I thank the Lt. Governor and Chief Minister for inviting me here today and giving me this opportunity. I wish you all well.

Imbibe Sense of Patriotism

TOMORROW WE CELEBRATE the 36th anniversary of our Independence. On this auspicious occasion, I greet you all my fellow citizens here and abroad and extend to you my good wishes.

At the very outset, it is our duty to remember with gratitude the great sacrifices made by our people during the freedom movement to achieve Independence. I salute all those who participated in our freedom movement led by Mahatma Gandhi and other stalwarts. The founding fathers of our Constitution gave us a democratic polity, embodying the principles of democracy, socialism and secularism. We have travelled very far since then and the spirit of democracy has taken deep roots in our soil. The sovereign will of the people is reigning supreme and there is every reason for us to feel proud of our democratic traditions.

Political freedom imposed heavy responsibilities on our shoulders. The first and foremost task was to strive for economic freedom without which all other freedoms would be mere empty slogans. We opted for achieving economic development through planning based on the willing

consent of the people. We have three decades of experience in economic planning during which our country has made significant progress in many directions. Sound foundations have been laid for agricultural and industrial production which have recorded reasonable growth rates. Simultaneously, growth has taken place in other sectors like health, education and so on. We must never forget that all this has been achieved within the framework of democratic institutions. The growth that has been achieved has enabled us substantially to meet the basic demands of our fast expanding population. Our society, stagnant for centuries, is now moving forward steadily to achieve the eradication of poverty, hunger and disease.

There has unfortunately been a spurt in violence in various parts of the country. In a democratic society there is no place for violence. It is quite natural for many problems to arise in a society that moves forward. But there is no problem that cannot be solved through frank and sincere discussions. I appeal to all to strengthen the forces of peace and stability and shun the path of violence and confrontation. This is the most appropriate way of paying our tribute to our leaders who made supreme sacrifices for achieving Independence and who gave us a democratic and secular constitutional framework. The spirit of oneness and unity should influence everyone of our actions and everything else comes only next. Unity and discipline should be espoused by all of us and trends of disunity and indiscipline should be nipped in the bud whenever and wherever they raise their heads, with administrative and political vision. We should be eternally vigilant and constantly endeavour to strengthen the unifying forces in the country.

To maintain the unity of the nation is not the exclusive responsibility of the Government only. The society at large is also to share equal responsibility. Schools, Colleges, Universities and other educational institutions have to give thought to it. If the teaching community provides the right direction the youth of today will never feel attracted to involve themselves in anti-social agitation. Therefore, there is great responsibility on the teachers to guide the youth on right lines. I appeal to educationists and leaders of society that they should not allow the power of youth to be misused and all attention should be paid to building up their character and arousing their sense of patriotism. If any deficiencies in your educational system are causing discontentment among the youth, these should be removed.

Society gives a place of honour to religious Gurus and leaders. They are in a position to play an important role for strengthening national unity and promoting social and economic progress. They can create a congenial climate for removal of social evils like dowry system, inequalities and other social evils, and for constructive activities such as women's education, health and family welfare.

The building up of right moral values and standards is essential for any meaningful, social and economic progress. Economic development for material prosperity coupled with moral and spiritual values will make our nation stronger. I would like to spell out the following seven points for action by each one of us so as to strengthen the moral and spiritual foundations of our nation :

1. Love for the motherland and devotion to national unity and integrity.—National unity is above party politics.
2. Work is worship—its motto is service to society.
3. Humility in thought, word and deed and toleration of the view points of others.
4. Adherence to truth and courage to speak the truth and if necessary to make every sacrifice for it.
5. Non-violence—not only abjuring violence through weapons, but even not hurting anyone through words.
6. Respect for all religious faiths, as all point to the Oneness of Godhead.
7. Simplicity, good conduct and spirit of service in personal life.

I do not claim any originality for these views. These have been handed over to us by our ancestors. I am only highlighting them in order to focus attention. I feel that if each one of us strive to observe these principles in the day-to-day life, the nation will become great and life more happy for everyone of us.

Recently we have witnessed that India can successfully achieve anything with team spirit and discipline. Especially our youth should be relied upon to carry out any difficult task successfully. Government and society must not do anything which will undermine their confidence. The way in which recently our cricket team won the World Cup shows that when individual excellence is combined with team spirit we can work wonders.

This year in the month of March, we had the privilege of hosting the 7th Non-Aligned Summit of more than one hundred nations, presided over by our Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi. This was a very significant and historic Conference. It was universally recognised that the Conference was a great success and was very well organised. India's Prime Minister as Chair-person of the Non-Aligned Movement has undertaken the responsibility to wage a relentless struggle for peace and stability in the tension-ridden world. Very soon, India will be hosting the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting and I am sure that the Commonwealth Conference will prove successful in every respect and strengthen the forces of peace and stability in the world.

Our tasks ahead are by no means over and there are many problems, chronic in nature, yet to be solved on a priority basis. Poverty is our enemy

number one which demands our undivided attention. Economic growth with social justice has been our watchword. There have been positive achievements in this field and a measure of progress is visible to the naked eye. In my tours to various parts of the country, I have observed that progress is being made and the weaker sections of society are marching forward with confidence about a better future for themselves.

This year flood, cyclone and drought have caused havoc in some parts of the country. Our sympathies go out to the people of the affected areas. Relief assistance has been provided by the Central and State Governments and measures taken to enable the farmers to overcome the adverse effects and achieve a higher level of foodgrains production than ever before. We are proud of our farmers and workers.

Our armed forces are a symbol of national unity and discipline. People belonging to all parts of the country, following different faiths and speaking various languages are working as one team to defend the country in every respect and enhancing our glory. With increasing emphasis on modernization and self-reliance our armed forces are equipped and ready to face any unforeseen situation. Our brave jawans and officers deserve the nation's appreciation for their sense of patriotism and single-minded devotion to duty.

With these words, I would like to conclude by once again appealing to you that we must not spare any effort to strengthen the national will and determination for achieving our goals and reaching new heights.

Role of Defence Academy

IT GIVES ME great pleasure to be with all of you here today. This Academy is a unique one and first of its kind established soon after Independence. Born in 1949 at Clement Town, Dehra Dun, the Academy moved into its own premises in the self-contained modern township at Khadakvasla in 1955. This is an appropriate occasion for all of us to remember our beloved leader Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru who had laid the foundation stone of this Academy in 1949.

It is this Academy that supplies trained officers to the three wings of our defence forces. Though specialised training is imparted in separate places, the basic training of a soldier is provided here through the integrated foundation course. The excellence of our Army, Navy and Air Force and their efficiency depend upon the training that is given here. I am impressed

by the aim of training that is basically meant to equip all cadets with the requisite educational standard and enable them to acquire mental, moral and physical qualities essential to their progressive and continued development. Development of character, with initiative, self-confidence and above all qualities of leadership is emphasised in the training.

The motto of your Academy is "*Seva Paramo Dharma*". Service is our foremost and primary duty which comes above all other considerations. The training that you receive during the couple of years of stay here, has been designed to prepare and equip you for undertaking heavy responsibilities later on. The essence of training is 'Service Before Self' and I do hope that all of you undergoing training in this Academy will keep this as your guiding principle and strive to achieve excellence in your careers.

With the progress of civilization and methods of production the weaponry system also has undergone a vast transformation. Gone are the days when one could defend oneself or the country with swords and arrows or with horses and elephants. The present civilization is based on fast changing and ever developing technology. Unless we are upto date in our knowledge and modern enough to use them, it would be difficult for us to protect our freedom and defend our motherland. However much we dislike the institution of war, we have to maintain our defence capabilities suitable for the times. We are living in a world full of tensions and it is our duty to defend ourselves against any threat. In this context, I am happy to note that the quality of training imparted here is quite adequate. Despite all developments in technology man and the spirit of man is still supreme. And it is the development of man as an integrated personality that is important.

After undergoing the integrated foundation training here you will take specialised training in the three branches of our armed forces. The integrated training here will develop in you the spirit of comradeship within the defence force as a whole, irrespective of the particular service to which a cadet may belong. Our armed forces have earned a distinction for themselves and proved equal to the tasks entrusted to them in times of war as well as in times of natural calamities. It is this spirit of service with complete dedication that all of you should imbibe and be a model for emulation by others in the country.

This Academy is open to all, irrespective of caste, creed, religion and language. It is particularly heartening to know that there are also cadets here from several friendly foreign countries of Africa and Asia. The Academy has grown into a unique organisation with distinguished record of service and I do hope that all of you will endeavour to live up to the expectations and prove worthy of the Academy and our motherland.

Once again, I express my thanks for being invited here. I wish you all well in future.

Our Glorious Heritage

IT IS WITH supreme pleasure that I greet you, the members of my Bodyguard, on this historic occasion of your two hundred and tenth anniversary.

As befitting the seniormost Regiment of Indian Army, I congratulate you on your turn-out, smartness and bearing. I am impressed with the professional competence, elan and pride amongst all ranks. Being the only unit in the world fully trained as horsemen, paratroopers and tankmen, it is a privilege for me as your President to have such a fine body of men as my personal Bodyguard.

In the field of human endeavour, military tradition has inspired men through the ages and spurred them to deeds of daring and self-sacrifice to safeguard the unity and integrity of their country. You are heirs to and the custodians of such a rich and glorious heritage. I am confident that all of you will strive in future to preserve and enrich the great traditions of which you are the proud inheritors.

It is with pride that I see you drawn up before me, resplendent in your bearing. To you then, I present with pleasure, this Silver Trumpet and Trumpet Banner. May its clarion call spur you to greater achievements for you will be invincible, when guided by the immortal words '*Yato Dharmah Tato Jayah*'.

Law in the Service of Man

IT IS A matter of great pleasure for me to be amidst a galaxy of legal luminaries. Knowledge of law is essential for every citizen in making himself dutiful and responsible to society. The Constitution of India is essentially a legal document within the framework of which the basic institutions, namely, legislature, judiciary and executive, function. Law provides the binding force between individuals and institutions in the society to live together and to cooperate with each other, to make life better and worthwhile. Law is equally necessary in the administration of justice.

Administration of justice in resolving disputes has to be according to law. There cannot be any society devoid of conflicts or disputes either within or without.

Speech on the occasion of 210th Raising Day of the President's Bodyguard, New Delhi, October 6, 1983

Speech at the foundation stone laying ceremony for the building of the Indian Society of International Law, New Delhi, January 22, 1984

The question then would be how to resolve conflicts between two societies or two sovereign and independent nations. Either it has to be through war or through peaceful means and modalities. The history of nations shows that mankind in its wisdom thought essential to evolve mutually acceptable principles of law to be followed by nations both in war and as well in peaceful times.

Law is designed for service of man and not vice versa. Man is instrumental in formulating law through various agencies for his own benefit. By the very nature of it, law is subjected to a change, along with other changes. I feel that it is highly necessary for the law making agencies to keep the welfare of the weaker sections of society in mind, who are otherwise voiceless, it is the bounden duty and responsibility of the law maker, judiciary and the lawyers to see that justice is rendered to them. I feel that a close interaction between these agencies is necessary not only to make realistic laws but for their implementation and administration as well. The same factors operate with equal validity in the international field also.

Above all, law is an expression of the moral force that binds a society together to live in peace and harmony. It is the same moral force that binds humanity as a whole which manifests through law and governs relations between sovereign and independent nations, with the object of avoiding conflicts and promoting cooperation. I feel that basically law, whether national or international, stands for peaceful settlement of disputes arising out of conflicting opinions. The task before all peace loving citizens and nations is to strengthen this vital moral force, through appropriate agencies and suitable institutions. The Indian Society of International Law deserves to be congratulated for their endeavour in this regard for the last 24 years of its existence.

International Law is the law between nations and not above nations. In all civilisations there existed some laws in one form or other which regulated the conduct of nations and also provided the basis for resolving disputes amongst them. Ancient India's contributions to international law through Bhishma's *Danda-Niti* in the Mahabharata, Surka's *Nitisara* and Kautilya's *Artha Shastra* are invaluable. In modern times, with growth of communications and technology leading to greater inter-dependence of nations, the world has shrunk in many ways. The greater the points of contact between nations, the greater is the necessity to strengthen the principles of international law. As long as nations exist, international law must exist to ensure peaceful living and well-being of mankind.

The Indian Society of International Law in Delhi dedicated to the cause of growth, research and development of international law, was inaugurated in 1959 by late Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, the architect of modern India. Late Shri G. S. Pathak, the illustrious former Vice-President of India, was its first Executive President. This Society has grown from strength to

strength under the leadership of late Shri V. K. Krishna Menon, who remained the philosopher and guide for all its activities till his demise.

I am given to understand that this Society enjoys international reputation in its contributions to various fields of international law. It is befitting that Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, is the Patron of the Society, Shri Y. V. Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India, is the Hony. President and Dr. Nagendra Singh, Judge of the World Court, is the Executive President. I am also given to understand that the Society will be celebrating its Silver Jubilee in the near future.

Institutions contribute to the growth of ideas. And ideas motivate actions leading to greater progress when directed towards the welfare of man for living in a better world. I am sure that this Institution would continue to make greater contributions to international law and relations in furtherance of the cause of peace and tranquility.

I am happy that the Society of International Law is going to have its own building with the aid and assistance of the Government and I am sure their activities will gather greater momentum in future.

Let me say once again that I am very happy to be amongst you and to lay the foundation stone for the building of the Society, which I am sure will come up expeditiously with the cooperation of all the concerned agencies, particularly the Central Public Works Department which has undertaken its construction.

I thank the Indian Society of International Law and Dr. Nagendra Singh in particular, for inviting me to this function and convey my best wishes for its success in future.

Achieving New Heights

ON THE HAPPY occasion of celebrating our thirtyfifth Republic Day tomorrow, I greet all my countrymen at home and abroad and convey my best wishes.

Our Republic, with a democratic Constitution chosen by our founding fathers, took a concrete shape, on January 26, 1950. Since then, these thirtyfour years have constituted a period of growth. What has been witnessed is a most thrilling event—emergence of free India into the world after a long spell of subjugation. In the history of the world, there is hardly a parallel with the story of India's freedom struggle. I recall on this occasion

the untold and supreme sufferings and sacrifices of millions of our countrymen in the cause of independence and pay my respectful homage to their memory. I also recall the statesmanship and far-sightedness of our leaders who framed our Constitution and gave us a sense of direction for our growth and progress. Reflecting the essence of our age old traditions and values, the Constitution became our sheet-anchor for socialism, secularism and democracy. Now we have with us the benefit of more than three decades of experience in the working of our polity and our people deserve to be congratulated for their steadfast adherence to the path of peace and progress with a high degree of maturity and wisdom. India has emerged as a nation of hope and confidence on the world scene.

I had referred to the many gains made by India when I spoke to you last year this day. Since then, there have been further achievements to enable us to claim that we are well set in the right direction in our battle against poverty. I feel that this is an appropriate occasion for us to recall some of these achievements and hope that we march ahead with greater confidence.

Oriented towards 'growth with social justice', the basic strategy of our planning for development may be said to be yielding encouraging results, judged by the main indicators. It is a matter of pride that during the last three years India achieved a real growth of 5 per cent per annum in gross domestic product, while the economic conditions in the world were generally characterised by low growth rates, high rates of inflation and unemployment. Our economy is forging ahead with a significant increase in employment which has been higher than the rate of growth of the labour force in the country.

The progress achieved so far has become possible by the consistent efforts made to develop a sound base in science and technology. The technology policy of the Government aims at rapid development of self-reliance, promoting indigenous science and technology, appropriate adaptation of imported technologies and ensuring transfer of technology for efficient application. Our achievements in nuclear, space and oceanic research speak eloquently of the path we have chosen and of the determination and sincerity of our scientific community. The INSAT-IB circling the earth, the Third Antarctica Expedition on the frozen continent and the Oceanic Research Vessel 'Sagar Kanya' delving deep into the mysteries of the ocean, are there for us all to feel proud of and to derive inspiration from.

In the field of agriculture, India has taken noticeable strides. Food-grains production in 1983-84 is expected to reach a new peak and exceed the level of 142 million tonnes, with honours being shared for the increase both by kharif and rabi harvests. Similar advances have been made by the industrial sector too, ably assisted and supported by a sound infrastructure.

A matter of great importance to the economy is the growing self-sufficiency in respect of production of crude oil and refining capacity.

The increased tempo of activities witnessed in recent years needs to be sustained and maintained at a higher level. I appeal to all people, working in farms, factories, laboratories, educational institutions, government offices or anywhere else to work with redoubled vigour and a missionary zeal. We cannot afford to lose any time as we are engaged in the struggle against poverty, hunger, disease and ignorance.

This brings me to some disquieting developments in some parts of the country. I feel a deep concern over the violence taking place and the manner in which agitations are being conducted. There is no place for violence in a democracy. It is painful to see that violence is resorted to in the name of religion. I would like to reiterate that there is no issue which cannot be solved through peaceful discussions. Respect for other religious faiths and toleration towards others are our ancient traditions. In my tours across the length and breadth of the country, I have witnessed the spirit of brotherhood and affection guiding the lives of people. This should not be disturbed for narrow ends, for, any vacuum created thus will undermine our hard-won freedom. I appeal to all of you to rise above all regional, communal, linguistic, religious and other considerations and work for a united and strong India.

I had referred to the Seventh Non-Aligned Summit in my Independence Day address to you. In November 1983, India played host to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. These two international meets on our soil have helped to strengthen the force of peace and stability in a tension-ridden world, beset at the moment with grave problems threatening the very existence of mankind. Consistent with our internal efforts to raise the standard of living of our people, especially the weaker sections, externally we have taken the initiative to promote a North-South dialogue in order to bring a new international economic order based on equality and justice, while recognising the need to move rapidly towards the goal of collective self-reliance among developing countries. The Declaration of South Asian Regional Co-operation adopted by the seven South Asian countries in New Delhi has been a good step in this direction.

Our ever alert and vigilant defence services are symbolic of our unity and discipline. They deserve the nation's appreciation for their sense of patriotism and devotion to duty.

With these words, I would like to conclude by once again appealing to you that we should strive hard with courage and self-confidence to strengthen our unity and scale new peaks of achievement in future.

Defence of Air Space

IT GIVES ME great pleasure to be here today and to present Standards to No. 8 Squadron of the Indian Air Force. The Squadron has established a distinguished record of service to the country over 40 years.

No. 8 Squadron was born in the midst of the Second World War in December, 1942. Since then the Squadron has undergone many constructive changes and fulfilled many roles successfully from coastal defence to the defence of air space ; from giving tactical support to the army on the ground to fighting and driving away enemy aircraft. The Squadron has transformed itself to modern techniques to undertake any arduous role. This rapid transformation has involved the use of many types of aircraft and readiness to play any role in the task of defending the country. It has given me pleasure to know that the Squadron has played a successful role in all the armed conflicts faced by India after independence and it has come out in flying colours through all those engagements. All ranks of officers and men of the Squadron deserve to be congratulated for their achievements.

The motto inscribed on the crest "*Suraksha Va Akraman*" reflects the spirit of the Squadron and the ideals for which it stands. The motto is an inspiring one and I hope that it will continue to enthuse all who are working in the Squadron and all those who will get the privilege of serving in it in future. It is a matter of pride for the Squadron that it has won many awards and commendations. It is highly creditable that the Squadron has won as many as five Vir Chakras, besides many other medals. I hope that the Squadron will continue to exhibit the same spirit of dedication and win many more laurels in years to come.

We are a peaceful country, pursuing policies to strengthen peace in the world. At the same time, we should not be found wanting in defending our hard earned freedom, if threatened. It is universally recognised that "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty". I am confident that your Squadron which acquitted itself creditably in the past, will rise to the occasion and meet any challenge from any quarter.

The country is proud of our Air Force for its services to the people in times of peace and also during natural calamities like cyclones and floods. I have been following the achievements of our Air Force and I am deeply impressed by the speed and efficiency displayed in conducting relief and rescue operations.

This is an age of fast changing technology. We have to keep ourselves up-to-date with all technological changes. The Government are fully aware

of this and taking necessary steps to equip our defence forces with modern equipment.

It has been proved and well recognised that India's Defence personnel fight with great devotion and strong determination. Their steadfastness in the battlefield in defending the country is exemplary. In this context, I would like to remind you that in the ultimate analysis it is not the machine that matters but it is the man behind the machine that is important. Therefore, the introduction of sophisticated weapons in our vicinity should not be allowed to weaken our resolve nor our determination. The spirit of selfless service to the country by one and all should guide us.

The strength of a nation depends upon unity. All of you serving in the Squadron have set a fine example of brotherhood. This must be kept up.

I convey my sincere greetings to all of you officers, airmen, civilians and your families, and wish you success and good fortune in future.

Defending the Frontiers

I AM VERY happy to be here with all of you. You are all engaged in the noble task of protecting the unity and integrity of our motherland. There is a uniqueness about our armed forces. Every unit, consisting of people from various parts of country, represents a mini India. This is our long inherited tradition and I feel heartened to see the same spirit of unity of tradition and brotherhood reflected in all of you. Our Armed Forces thus provide the best example of national integration and unity. This feeling of oneness and unity of India should be strengthened further.

As you are all aware, we have been engaged since Independence in the gigantic task of economic development of the country so as to eliminate poverty, hunger and disease and for improving the living standards of down-trodden sections of our people. We have made considerable progress and laid solid foundations for future growth. Our progress is not confined to increasing the production of material goods alone, but extends to simultaneous advance on many other fronts like education, health and housing etc. All this has been achieved against heavy odds and many obstacles. There are two recent achievements in this field which deserve special mention. A team of scientists from India has made successful expedition to the icy continent of Antarctica near South Pole and conducted scientific studies. A few days back, India has successfully launched its satellite into space from Sriharikota built indigenously by our own scientists and technologists. India could achieve this because of team spirit and devotion by scientists belonging

to all parts of country. This spirit of oneness and brotherhood should be emulated by all others and make this country strong and prosperous.

I am aware of the arduous conditions under which you are living and working in these far-flung areas. The entire nation is behind you and with you.

I thank you for giving me this opportunity and talk to you. I wish you all well in future.

Shed Hatred

WHILE TALKING TO you my heart is full of sorrow and anguish. For quite some time, reports about some events in Punjab had been coming. The Gurdwaras which are centres of spiritual peace and human brotherhood are meant for all. Unfortunately, some aberrations occurred in recent times. The Gurdwaras came under the control of extremists and even office-bearers responsible for management of Gurdwaras seemed helpless before the extremists. The holy places became the refuge for extremists and misguided elements. As a consequence extremists indulged in murder, loot and arson. They brought misery to Punjab. The victims were both Hindus and Sikhs. These included prominent journalists, religious preachers, scholars, political leaders even farmers and workers. Extremism went to the extent of claiming the life of a great scholar like Singh Saheb, Giani Pratap Singh, former Jathedar of Shri Akal Takht. He was an eminent personality of the 20th century. He was also an acknowledged writer, thinker and minister of the Guru's Gospel. His life was taken, because his ideas did not conform to those of extremists. Those in-charge of the administration of Punjab cannot be absolved of responsibility in this matter. The Government had most reluctantly to send the security forces. Two religious and political leaders surrendered themselves to the security forces in the interest of maintaining the sanctity of the holy places. If extremists had also surrendered, the sanctity of the religious places would not have been disturbed and the subsequent sad events could have been avoided.

I say it with anguish in my heart that we should follow the correct path in the face of these sad events. A nation is sometimes beset with such circumstances when its patience, statesmanship and its courage are on trial. I appeal not only to Sikhs but all my countrymen to consider these sad events and see that never in future unlawful arms and items not sanctioned by Sikh tradition enter the Gurdwaras. It is a matter of satisfaction to me

that the structure and sanctity of Shri Harmandir Saheb remained intact. I have been told by the officers and men of the security forces that they had vowed not to fire in the direction of Shri Harmandir Saheb, even in the face of certain death. In the operations some people have been killed including the officers and men of the security forces. Patience and far-sightedness are the needs of the hour. We have also to ensure that such a sad situation never occurs again.

We have to maintain the unity and integrity of the country. We have also to endeavour to maintain friendly and harmonious relations between our people. My agony is all the more, because I am the representative of the whole nation. I am grateful to all my countrymen for having reposed this trust in me. It is my duty to look after all the States and territories of the country and to share the sorrow with the people wherever such events take place.

I specially want to remind the Punjabis that they have common traditions, heritage and a common history. They have been sharing the same food, the same air and have common joys and sorrows. We have to fill the breaches in our minds and have to march together. We shall have to look after the interests of the whole country and nation. I am confident that all of us, Government as well as the people, will make sincere efforts in this direction. Never again should we allow such circumstances to develop which create disunity among us. We have to strengthen the unity of our people.

The Holy Book, Guru Granth Saheb, teaches compassion, service, sacrifice and universal brotherhood. We have to foster mutual love and affection. Not only Sikhs but people professing other religions also have faith in Gurbani. The Sikh Gurus thought of the country as a whole. They travelled to each and every part of the country. Every inch of this country belongs to all of us, whether we are Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, Jains, Buddhists, Hindus and others. We have to heal the wounds and maintain the sanctity of all religious places. We must remember the teachings of Guru Gobind Singh that one who loves humanity, loves God.

Cherish National Values

ON THE EVE of the thirty-seventh anniversary of our Independence, I greet you all, my fellow citizens, and extend my good wishes.

This is a time for us to remember with gratitude the great sacrifices made by our people to achieve national Independence. I salute all those who

participated in our freedom struggle with courage and devotion. It was our great fortune that during the freedom struggle and the years immediately following our Independence, we enjoyed a wise and far-sighted leadership. Foundations were laid for the emergence of a united, strong and progressive nation. Consistent with our historical heritage and the cherished values of love, peace and goodwill, the nation's leaders evolved a Constitution. It gave us a polity suited to our conditions and based on the principles of secularism, socialism and democracy.

The record of our achievements over the last thirtyseven years since Independence is noteworthy. The democratic system has taken deep roots in the soil and we have made significant progress in the economic and technological fields. These achievements within the framework of our democratic structure and in the face of many difficulties speak eloquently about the dedication and determination of our people. However, we still have a long way to go to achieve fuller economic and social emancipation for all our people.

The Indian political system since Independence has successfully faced challenges created by the interplay of disruptive forces—internal and external. In my address to the nation on the 17th June, I had spelt out the factors leading to the tragic events in Punjab and the need to immediately restore traditional harmony and goodwill. Some misguided people have been creating disturbances in some other parts of the country also, and it is our sacred duty to check these disruptive forces.

Indian Independence was the result of the collective effort of all Indians belonging to diverse faiths and religions. They responded to the call of Mahatma Gandhi and other nationalist leaders with zeal, irrespective of the region they came from or the language they spoke. Thus, our Independence was a collective legacy to the attainment of which our countrymen sacrificed a lot and for the safeguarding of which all of us are now responsible.

India's economy has registered an overall upward trend since Independence for which we can be justly proud. A strong and sound infrastructure has been set up. It is all due to wise planning and hard work of our people. It has enabled the country to achieve and sustain an increasing rate of agricultural production. It gives me great pleasure to say that the country has achieved record foodgrains production of 151 million tonnes in 1983-84. It shows an increase of 17% over preceding year.

In the same way, industrial infrastructure has made it possible for India to become one of the leading industrialised nations. The scientific base created at the very inception of planning has begun yielding rich dividends. India is steadily advancing in many areas of science and technology, notably in nuclear science, space and oceanography.

Steadily rising production curve in agriculture and industry must be maintained so as to enable us to uplift the living standards of our people. We should also achieve eradication of poverty, hunger, ignorance and disease. This is our supreme task which should not be delayed. Any setback to this endeavour through violent agitations and extremist activities will put the clock back. It will weaken the country and perpetuate poverty. Violence is a sign of weakness and not of strength or wisdom. Let us all make a resolve not to deviate from the path of truth, love, compassion and peace and to stick to these eternal values for which India stands. In this mighty task of taking the country on the path of progress, peace and prosperity, every citizen has a role to play. I am confident that our people will endeavour in this direction and march forward in unity.

In the international field our country has been leading the non-aligned movement. It has continued to make a sustained effort towards the achievement of a just international economic order and reduction of political tensions in the world. The Government is also continuing to work for friendly relations with the neighbouring countries and greater regional cooperation through implementation of South Asia Regional Cooperation Programmes.

In April last, I paid State visits to Mexico and Argentina and had an exchange of views with the Presidents of these two countries. On my way back from Argentina, I also met at the Lima airport the President of Peru and had a friendly dialogue with him. This was the first ever State visit of a President of India to Latin America. Despite the barriers of language and the vast distance from India the hearty welcome that I received in these countries is testimony to the great goodwill which exists for India in this region.

The race for nuclear weapons has been posing great threat to the very existence of mankind. It is necessary for all nations to realise that freedom and democracy must lead them towards a stage where fear is not used as an instrument in international relations. There is need to build such a world order in which bigger nations should not intimidate smaller nations. And smaller countries should not have anything to fear from the bigger states. Responsibility for this, however, lies mostly on the big powers. All countries should be free to adopt their own policies and pursue their own destinies. A desire for competition exists in every living being and the same applies to every nation. But even if a country likes to win in the competition, it should not leave a sense of defeat in other nations. Only if world situation can progress to such a stage, can international peace be ensured and threat to mankind removed permanently.

It is well known that the quality of a civilisation is recognised by its treatment of its minorities and its women. India has been fair in its treatment of both and provides opportunities to all groups to shape their destinies

according to the best of their abilities. Minorities enjoy equal rights with majority. Women have come to occupy high places in every field—politics, law, education, science, business, industry and other professions. They have been marching ahead with men in all walks of life. The most recent illustration that comes to mind is the climbing of the Mount Everest by an Indian woman.

Our Defence forces, consisting of people belonging to all parts of the country, professing different faiths and speaking different languages, are working as one team. They are animated by love for the country and complete discipline. They deserve the appreciation of the nation for their devotion to duty.

I would also like to make a mention here of the historic event this year when one of our Air Force Officers undertook a space journey and signalled India's entry into space age.

With these words, I would like to appeal to you, my countrymen, to strive ceaselessly for the progress, strength, unity and integrity of our nation.

Harbinger of Peace

ON THIS THE saddest day of my life, I speak to you when I am totally overtaken by the dark cloud of cruel fate. Our beloved Mrs. Indira Gandhi is no longer with us. I have lost my dearest friend; we have all lost one of the greatest leaders our country has ever produced; and the world has lost a harbinger of peace who was undoubtedly the greatest woman leader mankind has ever produced.

My association with her family spans over four decades. Panditji's passing away was my first personal bereavement. The loss of Mrs. Gandhi is for me unbearable. In spite of her preoccupation with her official duties, we met often. For me each such meeting was a memorable experience. She was gentle, soft spoken, brilliant and above all an epitome of culture. She was a daughter Panditji would have been proud of.

Now all that has ended. The dastardly act of assassins which is not only heinous but a crime against humanity itself, has put the nation to test at an extremely critical juncture of our history. The unity and integrity of the nation is being challenged. Let our grief not cloud our good sense and maturity both as individuals and a nation. God shall grant us the

strength to meet the new challenge. Let us rally behind the ideals we have inherited from our forefathers. Let us demonstrate to the world that India's stability cannot be jeopardised by a handful of sub-human assassins.

Development of Maritime Power

I HAVE COME here today to present Colours to Southern Naval Command. This function was to have been held on November 6, but could not take place owing to unavoidable reasons. The tragic assassination of our late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi has plunged the whole nation in deepest sorrow. Her participation in the Naval Review held in Bombay in February this year and her address to the Naval personnel on that occasion are still fresh in the Nation's memory. She sacrificed herself for the unity and integrity of the country. She worked ceaselessly to ensure the security of the country. The strengthening and modernising of our armed forces owe so much to her vision and dynamism. National security is of paramount importance in a world of growing tensions and fast changing technology. Our Navy has kept abreast of the advances in technology and equipped itself to play its role in safeguarding the nation's security.

I am told that this is the first time in the history of Indian Navy for a Command to receive Colours. This speaks for itself about the growth of the Indian Navy since India became independent. A great honour has been bestowed on the Southern Naval Command by presenting Colours and I am confident that the Command will prove fully worthy of it.

In earlier periods of our history, India was a maritime power and oceanic navigation was common with the coastal people of Peninsular India. How can we forget India's maritime traditions established during the Satavahanas, Pallavas, Chalukyas, Cholas and the intensive commerce carried out from the numerous places of the East and West coasts in the remote past? All through history, India's vast trade found its way to the markets of the world through Indian ships over the ocean routes. But for many centuries in the recent past, there was a break in our maritime traditions with the advent of Europe's control over the seas and consequent colonisation. But we should never forget the fact that India used her sea power in the past to extend her cultural and commercial relations but never for colonisation.

It was only after Independence in 1947 that India got an opportunity to develop maritime power once again so as to conduct her commerce with

other countries in the world. It is our paramount duty to defend our vast coastline against any possible threats to our freedom and security and to facilitate smooth flow of trade and commerce. The increasing naval presence of non-littoral powers in our neighbouring seas imposes special burdens on us and we have to be very vigilant. Our vast coastline of 6,080 km consisting of 10 major and 135 minor ports and about 300 ocean going ships of over six million GRT (gross registered tonnage) have to be defended in order to allow uninterrupted flow of trade which is crucial for the economic development of the country. In addition to these, we have a fast growing off-shore oil prospecting and mining which needs to be protected. All this becomes possible only in an environment of peace and tension free seas around us. I feel heartened to note that the Southern Naval Command has been located here in this ancient coastal town of Kerala, which has a glorious maritime tradition. The Command is a full-fledged one and it has all the necessary training establishments, dedicated to the training of naval personnel necessary for the functioning of a modern navy.

Present day navies are no more confined to warfare on waves only, but extend to air and underwater which modern technology can think of. It has become necessary for us to develop our Navy as a three-dimensional force capable of meeting any threat. I have had opportunities to witness the capabilities of our Navy and I feel confident that our Naval personnel will rise to any occasion in defending the country and prove worthy inheritors of glorious naval traditions of ancient India.

The Colours presented to the Southern Naval Command are a cherished and coveted possession. This honour has been bestowed on the Command by the Nation in recognition of its services and the indomitable spirit displayed by its men over the years. With these few words, I conclude by reiterating my faith in the Southern Naval Command and its ability in enriching India's naval traditions further in years to come.

On this historic occasion, I give my best wishes to all persons working in the Southern Naval Command.

Economic Development

Impetus to Export Trade

IT IS A matter of pleasure for me to be here with you today for giving away the National Awards to exporters for outstanding export performance during 1979-80. I congratulate all those who have got the awards and the certificates of merit and wish them greater success for achieving the national objective of enlargement and diversification of our export trade.

There has been a sharp increase in trade deficit. The trend in foreign trade tended to be better last year but the prospects of exports during the current financial year are somewhat uncertain and would depend on the international trading environment. In view of the difficulties and handicaps which the export trade has to face in the wake of recessionary conditions and the sharp competition abroad, vigorous export promotion measures should continue to receive high priority in our economic policy and programmes.

Exports indeed, are vital to the development of economy and rapid growth in exports is necessary to promote self-reliance and efficient utilisation of national resources. The export policy, however, should at the same time, aim at promoting growth with social justice. Due care has to be taken to provide necessary incentives for products of small scale and medium scale industries. Export production in this sector must be encouraged by ensuring availability of requisite inputs, finance, market, insurance etc.

In recent years, there has been a growing desire on the part of the developing countries to establish a new international economic order. It is very essential for the developing countries to ensure collective self-reliance as it will reduce the age-old dependence on the industrialised nations. Our efforts in the international arena should be to ensure greater economic co-operation. One of the important ways to achieve this would be through promotion of trade amongst developing countries. However, the world trade situation in the last couple of years has been rather gloomy. It appears that the long post-war period is making way for a period of continuous recession. Growing unemployment, fall in the growth of production and real wages, and violent fluctuations in the exchange rates have become characteristic features in the developed countries. Our aim should be to meet the growing challenges of the situation and at the same time ensure a self-reliant growth process.

Diversification of exports in terms of commodities and markets is equally important. There are sectors in which India enjoys long term

competitive advantage. We should ensure growth and development of these areas. Exports of consultancy, engineering goods and project exports should be vigorously pursued. We have amply demonstrated some of our capabilities by completing in record time projects like building up of stadia etc. for the IXth Asian Games held recently in India. I am sure that with concerted effort it should be possible to accelerate the project exports from India.

Development of shipping facilities is receiving the Government's attention. Necessary steps in this regard have to be speeded up. At the same time we must develop modern port facilities. The need for coordination amongst rail, road, sea and air services has been recognised. However, a lot needs to be done in this direction.

While Government is providing necessary assistance to increase exports, it is for the exporting community to improve their efficiency and competitive ability. Quality plays a very important role in export development and building up the image of the country. In fact, quality is the lifeline of exports. The exporting community should, therefore, pay utmost attention to this aspect of export effort.

I am sure that the various measures taken by the Government for promotion of exports, and active cooperation of the exporting community would enable the country to achieve the targets set by us. I am appreciative of the steps recently taken in this direction and I am inclined to agree with the Commerce Minister that we are fully capable of meeting the challenges which confront us and, given the necessary will and effort, there is no reason why we should not be able to achieve the objectives which we have placed before ourselves.

I thank the Commerce Minister, Shri Shivraj Patil for inviting me in this function today and wish all those associated with export effort all success.

Roof for the Poor

I AM GLAD to be here and to inaugurate the Aga Khan Baug Housing Project for the poor in the urban areas. It is very gratifying to know that His Highness the Aga Khan has conceived the project and provided guidance as part of his keen desire to support projects for the benefit of poor and down-trodden in the rural and urban areas.

The cause of uplift of the poor and improving the living standards of weaker sections of the society is very dear to His Highness. One of the major concerns of His Highness, as you are all aware, is to provide low cost housing for the urban poor. It is universally accepted that a decent house means setting afire the spirit of human endeavour and a reasonable roof over a man's head can lay a firm foundation of man's betterment. The whole outlook of man can be shaped by the house he dwells in. I am reminded of the common belief that "a house is to this body as this body is to the soul".

Provision of housing especially to the poor and hitherto neglected sections of society has been accorded top priority in the social welfare schemes of our country and considerable progress has been made in this direction. I feel very heartened to note that His Highness has established the Muniwarabad Charitable Trust with the main object of providing housing for the poor and that he has taken keen personal interest in the planning and design concept of this project. It is a matter of pride to all of us to know that the World Bank Team was greatly impressed by the success of this housing project and the benefit it has brought to the economically weaker sections.

The uplift of the backward and the down-trodden has been given special attention in the socio-economic development plans of the country. This is an article of faith and has been enshrined in the Constitution by the founding fathers of our Constitution. This is a gigantic task and demands dedicated endeavours on the part of the Government as well as private agencies. The efforts of voluntary organisations will go a long way in supplementing the efforts of the Government. His Highness the Aga Khan has been evincing keen interest in this and bestowing personal attention on these projects meant for the poor.

I appeal to all voluntary organisations and philanthropic trusts in the country to emulate the examples set by His Highness for the welfare of weaker sections of society.

It gives me joy to know that this function coincides with the Silver Jubilee of His Highness the Aga Khan as Imam. I wish success to His Highness in all such future endeavours. I thank the organisers for inviting me here and to inaugurate this project.

Role of Indian Merchants' Chamber

IT GIVES ME great pleasure to be associated with the Platinum Jubilee Celebration of the Indian Merchants' Chamber. When the Jubilee

Committee and the Office bearers of your Chamber approached me to inaugurate the Jubilee function, I gladly agreed to do so because of its association with our freedom struggle and national movement.

I am aware of the fact that the Chamber had a close liaison with the Indian National Congress. It not only subscribed to the objectives of the freedom movement, but also identified itself with the mainstream of our social and political life. No wonder, then, that it had earned the credibility and respect on the part of prominent leaders of our struggle for Independence. Even the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, appreciated the good work the Chamber was doing. In recognition of this, he accepted the Honorary Membership of the Chamber, which was a rare honour and privilege for any organisation in the country. What greater reward could the Chamber desire than this ?

Today is a proud day for Indian businessmen and industrialists. Your Chamber, which is an offspring of Swadeshi Movement, has grown into an important organisation and has been playing a significant role in the economic development of our country. The succession of eminent Presidents you have had, helped the Chamber to grow in the manner it did. Platinum Jubilee is an important milestone in the life of any organisation and provides an opportunity to review its rich and mature experience and draw fresh inspiration for the future.

Inaugurating the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of your Chamber our beloved leader and the first Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, underlined the contribution of your Chamber. To recall his words :

“In those days before Independence for a generation or two, the primary object before every citizen of India was the attainment of Independence and we realised that political Independence was a prerequisite for anything else...Your Chamber realised that fact and threw its weight on the side of the freedom struggle, and I should like, on this occasion, to acknowledge our appreciation of it”.

The attainment of Independence in 1947 created for the Chamber the need to redefine its role. The entire perspective had changed. In place of the alien Government, we now had our own Government, which was committed to bring about an all-round progress of the country. It is extremely heartening to note that the Chamber realised the need to move with the times. It recognised the legitimacy of the rising expectations of the masses who had, for centuries, been the victims of oppression and exploitation. This shows the enlightened attitude of your Chamber. I am really glad that while continuing to perform its primary function of furthering the interests of private industry and trade, the Chamber has considerably widened the scope of its activities in the last three decades. It has made earnest efforts to re-adapt and re-equip itself to meet the new challenges and responsibilities created by the process of planned economic development, increased role of

the Government in economic sphere and the problems of eradicating mass poverty and unemployment. I have particularly noted that the Chamber's activities today include social welfare, civic affairs, environmental protection and family planning. I would like to compliment the Chamber for adopting this new role in independent India. It reflects a genuine desire to reorient the business community towards fulfilment of its social obligations.

Thirtyfive years after Independence, we have a long way still to go. Our industrial output in real terms is five and a half times to six times what it was when we started planning. We have a highly diversified industrial base. This is no small achievement. Our foodgrains output has increased commendably. However, despite the tremendous strides in industrial as well as agricultural production, the standard of living of the common man is not yet what we would like it to be. Fortunately, the country's leadership has shown sensitivity to the needs of the people and has embarked on policies and programmes so that the fruits of development reach the common man.

In our system of planned development, there is great scope for private industry and business in different fields, even as certain areas are earmarked for the public sector or for joint initiative exclusively. There are complaints occasionally that things are not in order, that infrastructure does not function properly, that resources are not available, that taxation is high, etc. There are complaints of a different nature that benefits generated by growth are not being equitably shared. There are sometimes complaints of profiteering. I am not saying how correct or true these different complaints are. In a democratic polity, there are always different opinions, divergent claims.

My plea is that if you bring to bear on your thinking and action the spirit of commitment and sacrifice you had shown in the days of freedom struggle, a new atmosphere conducive to cooperative endeavour could develop. I feel heartened to know that the Chamber has decided to institute an annual award of Rupees one lakh for "Social Advancement" out of the Platinum Jubilee Endowment Fund. In the same spirit, I would suggest that Chambers of commerce and business and industrial houses should involve themselves in rural development, not in a token manner, but in a real sense. There are other equally important tasks you can take up, like spreading the message of family planning, providing housing facilities, providing drinking water, and so on. There is, of course, the need for industry to undertake research effort on a much bigger scale than before to attain a measure of self-sufficiency.

I hope in this Platinum Jubilee session, you will discuss some of my suggestions to see how best the business community can contribute to national endeavour more than what it has been doing so far. There is need for sectional efforts and claims coalescing and combining into something of a concerted effort for the good of the country. That will help to give the required thrust or push to economic growth and help relieve poverty. Political independence by itself is not adequate unless it is backed by economic

well being of the people. If we resolve to dedicate ourselves to this task on this happy occasion of the Chamber's Platinum Jubilee, we will be doing ourselves and the nation a good turn.

Once again, let me express my happiness to be here amidst you. I hope and trust your Chamber will continue to do good work as in the past and chart out new areas of service and activity. While inaugurating the series of functions you have planned, may I wish your Chamber many more such jubilees ?

Yet Miles to Go

I AM PLEASED to be here with you at the inauguration of the 5th Indian Engineering Trade Fair. I am happy that the programme of trade fairs which was started in 1975 is now being held regularly on an institutional basis to project Indian achievements and progress in industrial development especially in the engineering industry. The engineering industry is the arm of strength of industry as a whole.

India has a proud record of development ever since the strategy of planned growth was adopted over three decades ago under the policy initiated by our first Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru. Today, India is among the major industrial countries of the world. She is the world's 10th most industrialised country, the world's 4th largest foodgrain producer, and a leader in wheat research. Indian exports include a whole spectrum of products from hides and skins to power generation units. India is now completely self-sufficient in the manufacture of plant and machinery needed by some of its major industries like cotton textiles, jute, sugar, chemicals, cement and wide range of consumer goods. Major electrical items for domestic and industrial use are now manufactured in the country. Many of the basic drugs and heavy chemicals which used to be imported even in the sixties are now produced in the country. India has emerged as the second largest ship-owning country in Asia. India is now well in the midst of the space age.

In a number of industrial goods India is now among the world's top producers. All this development has been made possible because considerable attention was devoted to the creation of infrastructural facilities. At the same time we know that a great deal is yet to be done and, in the words of the great visionary Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, we have "miles to go". We are also aware that the international economic situation is subject to many

difficulties especially because of the strong recessionary trends in the developed nations. In this situation the challenge posed to the Indian industry is such that all of you will have to rise to the occasion collectively and individually to shoulder an increasing responsibility for further development of industry.

The need today is not only to broaden and strengthen the industrial production base and framework but also to update the technology within industry, to modernise it to contemporary international levels and to achieve the highest standards of quality. Acquisition of technologies has to generate a counter-flow of goods and services based on these technologies. Export production and international competitiveness are essential if the industrial growth which has already taken place is to be effectively consolidated. The engineering industry in this country caters to every sector of the economy. It is in many ways a focal point, a mother industry with its role of servicing agriculture, power, transport and all other sectors of the economy. A special responsibility rests on it, therefore, in the further building up of our engineering exports which have already crossed the Rs. 1,000/- crore mark annually. You will agree with me that very much more can be done given the will and effort.

I am pleased that this Fair is to be seen by visitors from all over the world through official and business delegations. It is a recognition of the fact that India has something to offer, that India is in a position to assist, specially in solving the problems of other developing countries because we are in many ways solving them for ourselves. I would urge the engineering industry to have a clear perception of its role and take a broad view in executing its responsibilities. Each developing country has aspirations similar to ours for building up its own national economy and industrial base. Our approach has been to share our experiences with our brethren in the common service of the third world. Whatever we do must necessarily be to our mutual benefit and I would like you to keep this in view as you increasingly step out of this country and do pioneering work outside in other developing countries. Industrial cooperation and trade can flourish in an environment of friendship and understanding. The visit of our friends to this Trade Fair and to our country at this point of time would surely help to build and strengthen such friendship and understanding.

I am happy to inaugurate the 5th Indian Engineering Trade Fair and I wish you all success in your efforts.

Harness Natural Resources

I AM GLAD to be here today and to associate myself with the inauguration of the new building complex of the Lalit Narayana Mishra Institute of Economic Development and Social Change. It is very appropriate that the Bihar Institute of Economic Development was re-named after the late Shri Lalit Narayana Mishra to commemorate his memory. Shri Mishra was a dynamic leader and played a magnificent role in the economic administration of the country. This Institute, started in 1973, has made good progress and now occupies a place of pride in the State. I hope that the completion of this new building complex will enable the Institute to equip itself with modern facilities for training courses, training programmes, research activities, workshops and seminars. I am told that the Institute is going to have a computer centre and a consultancy wing very shortly. I congratulate the Bihar Government for speedy completion of this project and rapid growth of the Institute.

Removal of poverty and uplift of the down-trodden have been the motivating forces of our freedom struggle. Economic development of the country was part and parcel of our movement for Independence led by Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Nehru, Sardar Patel, Rajen Babu, Maulana Azad and other great leaders of the country. Planning for economic development had been accepted by our national leaders much before Independence. We have now three decades of experience in economic planning. We have made significant progress in increasing the productive capacity of our country's economy. We have achieved self-sufficiency in food production. Our agriculture has become growth oriented, thanks to our hard working farmers who have been assisted by massive irrigation facilities, fertilisers, scientific research and financial inputs. Similarly, in the field of industrialisation, strong foundations have been laid for achieving a self-sustained growth.

This progress in agriculture and industry is matched equally by progress in other fields like transport, education and health. The process of economic growth has thrown up many problems which require constant study and research for their solution. For instance, the fruits of the economic development have yet to reach large sections of our people. Efforts are being made to improve their lot through special programmes. There has been noticeable improvement in the situation. But it will no doubt need the sustained efforts of all of us with unity and dedication, if we are to abolish poverty within a reasonable time.

Bihar is richly endowed with a variety of natural resources, that are necessary for industrialisation. It has the advantage in having a long established coal and steel industry and can feel proud of having a sound industrial

base which can contribute for further industrialisation and overall prosperity of the people of the State.

I am sure that the Lalit Narayana Mishra Institute of Economic Development and Social Change will address itself to the problems of poverty in the State and offer fruitful suggestions through meaningful operational research to the authorities. I hope that the Institute will become a pioneer in giving a correct lead to the progress and prosperity of the State.

I thank the Bihar Government for giving me an opportunity to come here and speak to you. I wish the Institute good luck.

Keep Pace With Modern Technology

I AM GLAD to be here today and to associate myself with the inauguration of the Fourth International CHEMTECH Exhibition and Oil Refining Technology. It is very heartening to know that foreign exhibitors from as many as 21 countries are here to participate in this exhibition and conference. I understand that the Conference will take up many subjects relating to chemical process engineering and oil refining technology for discussion. I hope that the deliberations in the Conference will yield positive results for the benefit of all the participating countries.

The chemical and oil refining industries are very crucial to modern economy touching the very life of all sections of the population. Many items of common consumption, like plastics, synthetic fibres, kerosene oil, cooking gas, diesel, fertilizers and so on, come within the scope of this group of industries. These affect millions in their day to day life in all countries. World technology in this field is advancing very fast and it is highly necessary to keep abreast of these developments so as to take advantage in the production of many commodities of consumption. Exhibitions and conferences like this will enable participants to exchange their experience and broaden their vision.

I need not stress the importance of oil as a vital source of energy in our economy. Our country is striving hard to increase domestic production and for achieving self-sufficiency in the foreseeable future. Once it is fully developed, it is bound to change the whole pace of industrial economy, qualitatively and quantitatively as well. I feel heartened to know that many foreign exports are participating here and exhibiting the latest technology and equipment which will no doubt prove beneficial for all.

What gives me a measure of satisfaction is that the Conference is taking up pollution for discussion. It is universally acknowledged now that

anti-pollution measures should be taken up simultaneously right from the beginning of setting up an industry.

In the present day world no country can afford to live in isolation. An integrated approach is needed for accelerated growth of the economy. We have to keep pace with the developments taking place in technology and services, so that we may succeed in world competition. The interaction at this Conference between Indian entrepreneurs and their counterparts from other countries of the world will be mutually beneficial. Exposure to the methods, systems and technologies being adapted in advanced countries of the world, will assist local entrepreneurs to become conscious of quality production and co-relate the major factors which play a vital role in acquiring business in the foreign markets.

The President of CHEMTECH Foundation has referred to the decision to sponsor 65 students from top most institutions in the country for this Exhibition and Conference. This is a step in the right direction. If bright students in the engineering colleges are exposed to the knowledge about the working of the leading chemical and process engineering industries, they will be able to make a substantial contribution towards advancement of these industries when they assume positions of responsibility in their later careers.

I welcome all our friends from various countries who have taken the trouble to come to India to share our experiences. I do hope their stay will be fruitful and the visit will be enjoyable.

I am confident that the Indian entrepreneurs will take full advantage of the opportunity and will introduce measures in their respective industries which will enable them to come up to the required standards of the world market.

I wish the Conference and the Exhibition a success. I declare them open. I thank the Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers, Shri Vasant Sathe, for inviting me here today and giving this opportunity to speak a few words.

Shram Vir National Awards

IT GIVES ME great pleasure to be with you and participate in this function organised by the Ministry of Labour and Rehabilitation. First of all, I would like to congratulate all the winners of the Shram Vir National Awards. I would also like to felicitate all other contestants who took part in this competition. They have all helped to set up a very worthy example which, I hope, many more will try to emulate in the future.

As you all know, we are at present passing through one of the most important and significant phases of our economic development. This is the

phase in which we have to rededicate ourselves for the achievement of meaningful targets of production in industry as well as agriculture so as to ensure a higher and better standard of living for our people. It is not only the Management but each person in the production process who has a vital contribution to make in the production. Increasing production is possible through the initiative and cooperation of workers. The Management must help in creating a feeling of partnership and comradeship in the task of building a sound economic and political society in the country and a proper climate must be created in which the workers themselves realise that they have scope for great contribution to efficient production. Only then the workers can give their best output. By giving the workers a sense of participation by assuring them equitable justice and recognising their value and talent, we can achieve better cohesiveness between the Management and the workers in the task of nation building. In the world competitive economy of today our very survival depends on industrial and agricultural productivity. We must make determined efforts to create and maintain an industrial climate which is conducive to productive and innovative ideas.

The scheme of Shram Vir National Awards is a welcome measure designed to encourage workers to contribute towards improvement of productivity and achievements of the enterprise in which they work. Seeing the winners of Shram Vir National Awards, one feels encouraged about the potentialities for indigenous design and development efforts.

We have to recognise the potential of our workers. We have to encourage more and more workers to come out with suggestions for improvement in the design of plant, machinery and processes. These suggestions based on practical experience of workers in the establishments have immediate usefulness and validity. This endeavour will also be in keeping with the concept of workers' participation in the running of industries. It is no secret that where workers are motivated, their performance is better and their willingness is greater in the efforts required for achieving more production. I am glad to learn that many of the suggestions offered by the workers under the Shram Vir National Awards Scheme, have led to import substitution and savings in foreign exchange. This is very encouraging to those who have made the suggestions and also to the managements who have established the "Suggestions Scheme" in their industrial establishments. I would commend to all the managements to encourage such schemes in their units so that more number of workers are able to contribute to the efficiency in production and the goal of self-reliance.

Once again I heartily congratulate the winners of the Shram Vir Awards who have applied their experience and innovative talents and set an excellent example to their fellow workers and I do sincerely hope that in the coming years more and more workers and organisations will actively participate in the Shram Vir National Award Scheme.

I thank the Minister of Labour and Rehabilitation for inviting me here.

Industrial Progress

I AM GLAD to be here today to inaugurate the Charge Chrome Project of the Ferro Alloys Corporation. Incorporated in 1955, this Corporation has made rapid progress and occupies a prominent place in the country as the foremost producer of all kinds of ferro alloys in our country. The company can justifiably feel proud of its progress and achievements and it has carved a special place for itself in the industrial map of India by playing the role of a pioneer in this field.

Since Independence, India has travelled very far on the road to economic freedom. We have pursued the path of planned economy with a single minded objective of economic growth with social justice. We have behind us three decades of experience in economic planning within the framework of democratic polity which by itself is unique in the contemporary world. It would be quite appropriate here to recall the major achievements. Our national income which remained virtually stagnant for decades before Independence has begun showing signs of dynamism and growth registering steady improvement. This steady growth over more than 30 years has put India in a special category among developing countries which resulted in the emergence of many technological and economic achievements. Our agriculture from a stage of subsistence cultivation has emerged into a stage of self-sustaining growth owing to a well coordinated and determined policy. A massive and diversified industrial base has enabled us to take pride in being ranked as the tenth industrial nation in the world and the third in respect of technical, scientific and skilled manpower. Economic growth by itself is not unique, but the uniqueness of India's success in the economic field through Five Year Plans consists in the fact that this is achieved within the democratic framework as conceived by the founding fathers of our Constitution. We have still to go further and further to banish poverty, hunger, disease and ignorance and uplift the poor and down-trodden. I feel reassured that we will be able to succeed in our efforts of removing poverty within a foreseeable future.

Orissa is fast developing as an industrial State with a heavy industrial base. In addition to steel, an aluminium complex is coming up. I feel doubly happy to note that this Charge Chrome Plant located in a backward area is 100 per cent export-oriented. We have made considerable progress in industrialisation and what is more significant is that the research and development efforts have begun to bear fruits. In this context, I would like to congratulate the research and development wing of Ferro Alloys who have successfully developed indigenous technology to develop the new ferro alloy-

charge chrome through beneficiation of very low grade chrome ores being thrown away as wastes earlier. I am sure that this new venture will go a long way in meeting the essential input requirements of our fast developing units manufacturing stainless and other special steels. Rolling mills which are located as far away in Western or Northern India will greatly benefit from this project. They can make use of sponge iron and make various steel products. Therefore, as I have pointed out earlier, this project is of national importance.

It has given me great satisfaction that a concerted approach has been attempted to implement the project. The Tor-Steel Research Foundation which has been engaged in providing technology for ribbed steel production in our country has brought various producers for medium and mini steel producing units under one umbrella to put up this unit with Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Orissa Ltd. It will solve the input scarcity of all participants for their steel producing units besides other mini steel plants in the country. Once the economy of the unit is established, the sponge iron capacity can be enhanced manifold as there is no dearth of raw materials for multiplying the production capacity.

The plant is located in a beautiful surrounding in a most backward area of the country which is largely populated with Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Installation of this plant will provide job opportunities for these people, which is an important objective of our national plan. They will be engaged in mining operations as well as in the plant and downstream units envisaged in the second phase of the expansion of the plant.

I am happy to note that a beautiful colony is developing inside the lush green sal forest and this colony has been constructed without disturbing the ecology of the area. Tree plantation work has been taken up by the authorities at right earnest which will provide a healthy atmosphere for the people working in the plant.

In conclusion, I like to congratulate the State Government for giving a lead and implementing such an important project of our country. I also congratulate the organisations involved in its execution. This project is a milestone for the State in the process of its economic development. I would suggest that Orissa which has got vast mineral resources should conceive of many such novel ventures.

I thank the Chief Minister for inviting me for this function.

Towards Industrial Prosperity

IT GIVES ME great pleasure to inaugurate commercial production of the first Sponge Iron Project in the State. This project is a pioneering venture in our time and the only one of its kind in Asia. This will result in adopting a process route for steel production utilising our vast non-metallurgical coal resources and high grade iron ore. During the last decade, all the world over, the sponge iron technology has made significant progress. This process has been evolved in order to utilise the gas and non-metallurgical coal in view of depleting reserves of metallurgical coal resources all over the world and especially in our country. As we have not enough gas resources, the project has adopted a solid reductant for converting iron ore to sponge iron by utilizing the non-metallurgical coal available in various parts of our country.

I am happy to note that the Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Orissa Ltd. has played a vital role in promoting such a project of national importance. This commercial plant which has been put to operation will be a land-mark in this direction and I hope, more projects will come up in Orissa where large reserves of iron ore and non-coking coal are available.

As this is a national project of high priority, every one participating in the venture like Financing Institutions, Central Government, State Government should do their best to assist the project and monitor its progress. If this plant is successful it will have beneficial consequences for the country's development.

At present to set up an integrated Steel Plant of two million tonnes capacity using conventional technology, the total expenditure is more than Rs. 3,000 crores. Due to financial resources constraints it has not been possible, therefore, to set up many more integrated Steel Plants, as a result of which the total steel out-put as well as per capita consumption of steel in India is much less compared to other countries. If the sponge iron technology is successful, it would be possible to set up such units in different areas of the country. In other words this will greatly help dispersal of steel making capacity all over the country. As present steel making is compelled to be concentrated only in a particular region where iron ore and coking coal are available.

It is very heartening to know that the company has given equal importance to the welfare of its workers and provided several facilities to satisfy social, economic and cultural and educational needs of employees. This concern for the welfare of workers is necessary for successful functioning of industry which will benefit the society and the country. I feel very happy

to note that the company has adopted two villages in 1977 for their intensive and integrated development and providing them with many modern amenities. This is a step in right direction. I am confident that other entrepreneurs will emulate the example and contribute for the welfare and uplift of our poverty-stricken brothers and sisters living in villages.

Participation of labour in the management has been universally recognised as a necessary precondition for the smooth running of the enterprise as well as for increased production and welfare. In this connection, I would like to suggest that in the running of industry the representatives of labour should be persons who happen to be labourers themselves. Workers should be considered as part and parcel of the enterprise and should be made to feel a sense of belonging which alone will lead to a healthy growth of relations between labour and management. Labour, who contribute to the increase in productivity and production, should be treated as equal partners at every step in the management of industry which will benefit the working class, the industry as well as the nation. I venture to suggest that labourers should be made entitled in all fairness to get a portion of profits which arise out of increasing production and productivity.

I thank the management for inviting me here and enabling me to inaugurate the Charge Chrome Plant. My best wishes for success in your future endeavours.

Progress in Textiles

I AM GLAD to be here today to lay the foundation stone of this Co-operative Spinning Mill. I consider this to be an important occasion for three reasons. Firstly, like food and shelter, clothing is a basic need of human existence. Our textile industry which has been making rapid strides requires the support of large net-work of spinning mills. The establishment of this Spinning Mill is, therefore, a step in the right direction. Secondly, it is particularly welcome that this Spinning Mill is being set up in the cooperative sector. The cooperative movement has been making commendable progress in our country over the last three decades. Cooperation has been accepted as an important instrument in our national planning ; it is an aid to decentralisation of industries and it is a potent method for utilising the energies of the people who are engaged in the process of production or trade. The promotion of the cooperative form of activity in various fields of planned

development has been accepted as an objective of our public policy. The present co-operative spinning mill will, therefore, carry forward this process. Thirdly, this Spinning Mill is being set up in the district of Farrukhabad which is considered one of the under-developed districts of Uttar Pradesh. It is, therefore, a step in the direction of dispersal of industries in underdeveloped parts of our country and bringing about more equitable level of development between various parts of the country.

In earlier centuries, before the rise of industrial revolution in the Western World, India's handloom industry enjoyed a pride of place in the world, and India's handloom products used to be exported to many countries. Our handloom industry has survived the assault of industrialisation and handloom weaving provides a useful as well as rewarding source of occupation to millions of our villagers. Handloom weavers are found in almost all parts of the country and it can be said that this industry provides a sort of unifying element through the length and breadth of this country. The spinning mills, such as the one being set up here, are an aid and support to the handloom weavers, and it can be said that the rural economy can be enriched if this sector is adequately strengthened.

I am told that there are about five lakh handlooms in Uttar Pradesh along with about 25,000 powerlooms, constituting about six per cent of the country's total spindlage. However, I understand that production of yarn in the State is only about a half of the State's annual requirements. This spinning mill, whose foundation-stone is being laid today is one of many mills proposed to be set up in the State for reducing the gap between demand and supply.

It is very significant to know that handloom and powerloom are producing nearly 55 per cent of total production of 12,200 million metres of cloth in the country. The development of handloom sector with its vast employment potential is an integral part of our war against poverty and uplift of the down-trodden section of our population. I congratulate the State Government for locating this mill, in Farrukhabad district which is classified as one of the backward districts of Uttar Pradesh. This district is famous for its textile printing industry and its products are in great demand, enjoying reputation within the country and abroad. I appeal to the engineers, managers and workers connected with the construction of this mill to strive hard and complete the construction as per schedule, avoiding delays. I hope that this mill, when completed, will meet the requirements of yarn by the handloom weavers and thus contribute to increase in production. I am glad to know that the Government of Uttar Pradesh have decided to set up 11 more spinning mills in the State, of which five will be in the State sector and six in the cooperative sector.

Once again, I congratulate the State Government on setting up this mill in an under-developed district and in the cooperative sector. I thank the

Government of Uttar Pradesh for inviting me here today for laying the foundation stone of the Mill.

Strengthening Trade Bonds

I AM GLAD to be with you this morning to inaugurate the Seminar on Trade and Economic Cooperation among South Asian countries. I hope that the proceedings of this Seminar will be of great use to all concerned in their efforts to promote regional cooperation in South Asia. I am confident that this seminar would come forth with some pragmatic ideas. While I do not wish to anticipate your deliberations, I shall share briefly some of my thoughts with you on this occasion.

The countries of South Asia are no more dormant. They stand as the architects of their own future. Their enthusiasm for bettering the quality of their "lives" is note-worthy. A process of economic and social regeneration characterises their endeavours.

This new awakening has also brought to them the awareness of their problems. The problems they confront are many. The way to progress is not easy and it is strewn with difficulties. However, I am impressed by the determination which the great nations of South Asia have set-forth to face the challenges.

Worth noting is the fact that in South Asia population density is 182 persons per square kilometre while the average density for the world as a whole is only 30 per square kilometre. Its share in the world output of grains is only 12 per cent and its share in the world trade is as low as 1.8 per cent, even though it has nearly 20 per cent of the world's population.

It is a paradox that such a sad economic situation should co-exist with rich natural resources that these countries are endowed with. This region has fertile soil, vast hydel energy and forest resources and unexploited wealth of the ocean. South Asia is also a source for the export of man power to the developed world. As a region, it is a formidable force with developmental potentials. It has almost all the industrial raw materials, essential for any development process, with brain power to husband them, to transform the natural resources to national benefit. Thus the resource potentialities of the region assure us that, given the determination and will, many of the problems can be successfully solved.

Today South Asia is on the threshold of a new era. It symbolises the

problems and aspirations of the third world. However, this component of the third world has certain distinct features. It is not a monolithic bloc but a tapestry of many glorious cultures. Its diversity with its undertones of similarity bestows on it a richness and greatness. The fascinating diversity does not obscure the basic unity, which has sustained it through vicissitude of time. This unity that runs through diverse strands, makes this region a unique one.

Historically, we have marched together and derived strength from each other. Geo-politically, we have many common strands. Ethnically and linguistically we are close. Culturally, we have borrowed from each other, without losing our respective identities. In arts and letters, we have common sources of inspiration. We profess many common beliefs. All of us accept the principal tenets of the non-aligned movement. The shared historical, geo-political and cultural endowments have bequeathed to us a singularly rich heritage. The rich common heritage paves a way for exchange of experiences among ourselves.

It is in this context that this Seminar, organised by the Federation of Indian Export Organisations, has assumed greater significance. I am happy to know that the basic thrust of the Seminar is to exchange information and experience.

The countries of South Asia have launched ambitious developmental programmes. Many have a few success stories to tell. By accelerating the mobilisation of the resources and by hastening the process of structural transformation, in tune with their national genius and philosophy of development, these countries have scaled different peaks of achievements. Any country which undergoes the turbulent developmental process acquires many lessons. The developmental experience of a country can be a guiding lesson for another. Therefore, exchange of experiences with one another should be welcome. The process of exchange would enrich further by this 'cross-fertilisation' which I understand is the aim of this Seminar.

When trade between nations takes place, it is not only commodities that are exchanged ; along with the commodities a wide range of commercial and industrial experiences are being exchanged. Thus trade is also one form of exchange of experiences.

When we talk of trade, one is reminded of the 'on-going' debate on North-South issues. For decades developing countries have been struggling for the establishment of a New International Economic Order. The developing countries still largely depend upon developed countries for the disposal of about two-thirds of their total exports. Due to the growing protectionist tendencies and recessionary trends in the developed countries, the growth prospects of developing countries have become rather uncertain. Therefore, the developing countries should evolve suitable strategies to reduce their

dependence on the developed countries. They would be also able to negotiate from a position of strength with developed countries, if there is better understanding and exchange of information among themselves. I feel that it is always desirable to explore the possibilities of cooperation among a group of contiguous countries.

The South Asian countries can marshal a great deal of resources if they pool their knowledge and experience. Their needs of capital, technology and markets could be met to a significant extent through mutual understanding and cooperation.

Industrial progress among the South Asian countries over the last three decades, has created new opportunities where it is ideal for them to strengthen trade links between themselves and seek stronger economic cooperation, with an increased level of cultural, scientific and technological exchanges.

The South Asian countries have pioneered in promoting cooperation among themselves. Starting with the Asian Relations Conference in 1947 at Delhi many efforts have been taken to bring better understanding among the countries of Asia. The New Delhi Conference on Indonesia in 1948, the Colombo Power Conference in 1954, the Bandung Conference in 1955, the Simla Conference in 1955 and the New Delhi Conference of Economic Planners in 1961 are some of the important landmarks. The recently concluded Seventh Non-Aligned Summit in our capital is yet another significant land-mark, which above all, has highlighted the urgency and necessity for a more meaningful, intensive and closer South-South cooperation as a prerequisite for a New International Economic Order based on equality and justice.

I hope that this Seminar would carry further the message left by the earlier conferences.

I have great pleasure now in inaugurating this Seminar and I wish you all success in your deliberations.

Thank you.

Spread of Literacy

AS YOU ARE aware, these awards were instituted in 1955 for the promotion of excellence in printing and graphic arts industry. I feel heartened to note that the printing industry has made rapid strides both qualitatively and quantitatively.

Speech at the 23rd National Awards for excellence in Printing and Designing of books and other publications, New Delhi, April 19, 1983

Printing industry plays a very important role in the spread of literacy and in educating, informing and motivating the people in a developing country like India. It is also vital to the economic development of the country through its services to advertising, packaging and selling.

In our vast country the percentage of literacy is increasing year after year though not at the rate one would like. During the last decade alone, the number of literates has gone up by nearly eight crores, which is more than the total population of many countries, an impressive figure by any standards. With free primary education and a mass awakening in the countryside, more and more children in the villages are now attending schools. The rate of growth of literacy is bound to increase faster in future. The more educated people we have, the more will be the number of people receiving education in the future. Here is a whole new mass of humanity waiting to be educated, eager to learn what may be of use to them.

Our printers, designers and publishers, etc., have an ever-widening domestic market opening up for them. This can mean increased turn-over as well as professional satisfaction provided they can realise the multifarious needs of the people. We will require more and more books for the children and women in their mother tongues, more attractive and functional packaging for goods, more publicity material at points of display, sale etc. With so many rich languages in the country, the aim should be to encourage printing and designing in all these languages. We must reach every child in his or her mother tongue. This is not only the most effective but also the most profitable approach.

Our country is a vast country with many diversities. Nearly 80 per cent of our people who live in villages will continue to live there. Life should be made more comfortable there which we are trying to do through our various Plans and Programmes. These people with low purchasing power will not be able to spend much on books etc. But this will not be always so. Step by step, from year to year, more and more people are coming above the poverty line and the centre of gravity—economic and otherwise—will one day shift to the countryside. I appeal to the printing industry to bear in mind the needs of those poor and down-trodden sections of our people and try to meet their requirements at reasonable prices. This is a national goal and I am sure that those of you who are in the field of printing will strive to help the nation in achieving the national goals.

Increasingly, more and more reading and publicity material will be required for this large mass of people. For them the contents and the medium, the product and the package, both are equally important. The content of our printed material should be such as to be attractive to the village people and neo-literates; our publications for the rural areas obviously have to be such as to help people in their day-to-day life in improving their standard of living, in widening their horizons. They must not only tell them

how they can increase their production by using scientific methods of cultivation, better inputs, correct proportions of fertilizers and insecticides, etc., but also educate them about various facilities available for them to improve their earnings and standard of life through rural sanitation, animal husbandry, social forestry and village industries. It is for the printing industry to put all this information in an attractive get-up. These are all long-term objectives and need sustained efforts. I am confident that these will receive adequate attention from the printing industry.

We in India have a glorious artistic heritage and an ancient tradition. The centuries old magnificent paintings of Ajanta and Ellora Caves still inspire us; beautiful miniatures of many schools show that we can fill not only macro spaces with beauty but also vest the smallest objects with artistic merit. Calligraphy, colour schemes and the technology of ink and paint have all contributed to these works of art. It is heartening to find that these rich traditions are being kept up and strengthened. This is a step in right direction. One comes across advertisements, which are alien to our well-established cultural traditions. This may appeal to the elite sections of the population in urban areas; but it may not appeal to large sections of our people living in rural areas. I hope our advertisers will strive to re-orient the advertisement world with our cultural traditions which reveal the underlying unity in diversity. This will, I am sure, help in strengthening our unity and national integration.

Before I conclude, let me congratulate the award winners and the organisers of this function.

I am thankful to the Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Shri H.K. L. Bhagat for inviting me here and giving this opportunity to share my thoughts with you.

March With the Time

I FEEL HAPPY to be here with all of you and to lay the foundation stone of the Small Industries Service Institute. Small scale industries have made rapid progress over the last three decades of planning in India with institutional support extended by the Government. I hope that the completion of this building will be another milestone and will go a long way in the development of small industries in this region.

India lives in its villages. All development programmes should, therefore,

Speech at the foundation stone laying ceremony of SISI building, Hyderabad,
August 1, 1983

start at the village level and the villagers should be the first to profit from the benefits of such development. Only then will they feel that they too are partners in the progress of our country. Village and small industries definitely help in taking the fruits of development to the remote areas of our country.

Small industries are eminently suitable for dispersal and they are comparatively pollution free. They require relatively less capital with great adaptability for the use of varying levels of technology. Therefore, in our programme of rural industrialisation and raising the standard of living of village artisans, small industries have a significant role to play.

Small scale industries play a dominant role in the development of our national economy especially in mobilising resources and generating employment opportunities. The Government of India planned a concerted programme for the rapid development of small industries in the country. A number of incentives and concessions were offered to entrepreneurs who came forward to set up small industries. Looking back it can be seen that the policy of the Government in fostering the rapid growth of small industries has paid rich dividends. I am told that we have at present almost a million small scale industries spread all over the country engaged in the manufacture of a wide range of consumer and industrial products. I am happy to note that in this remarkable achievement, the Small Industries Development Organization has played a crucial role.

The Government of India has always taken a keen interest in the welfare of the weaker sections of society. It is our aim and endeavour that these less fortunate brethren should be brought to an economic level which would help them in playing a greater role in the development of the nation. That is precisely the reason why so much importance has been given to the self-employment programmes in our plans. The opportunities for self-employment are provided by encouraging the unemployed youth to set up village and small industries rather than look for white collar jobs. Comprehensive industries extension service in the form of technical, economic and managerial consultancy is provided to the prospective entrepreneur at all levels right from the village artisan to the graduate engineer in setting up the industrial ventures. Credit facilities are provided on liberal terms. Programmes for the development of entrepreneurship have also been taken up in a big way to further stimulate and speed up the self-employment programme. I would like to mention the problems that are being faced by craftsmen living in our villages. It is quite well known that there are numerous craftsmen like weavers, carpenters, black-smiths, potters, cobblers and so on, who are pursuing their ancestral callings which are essential for the well-being of society. I find that they are not provided with adequate facilities like credit, marketing, and so on. There are many middlemen who are exploiting the artisans and cornering all the benefits. I would like the Government to pay special attention to this problem.

It is gratifying to note that India's achievement in the field of small industries has attracted world-wide attention, particularly the attention of several Afro-Asian countries who are now looking towards India for guidance. Several experts from our country are now working in Afro-Asian countries assisting them in their programmes of development of small industries. The demand for Indian experts is continuously increasing which is a fitting recognition to our achievement in this field. We should not however, rest on our laurels. We should strive to achieve much more than what we have been able to accomplish. We should all pull together like one team in achieving the ultimate goal of building a prosperous India, an India where small industries will not only be a technology but also a way of life.

Now I have great pleasure in laying the foundation stone for the proposed Small Industries Service Institute's building and also declaring open the hostel of Central Institute of Tool Design.

I thank the Union Minister for Industries, Shri Narayan Dutt Tiwari, for inviting me to this function.

Rural Emancipation

I FEEL HAPPY to be here today and to inaugurate the new building of Nanded Zilla Parishad which, I am told has cost Rs. 80 lakhs. I am grateful to you for presenting me with *Manpatra* on this occasion.

The Panchayati Raj System of decentralized administration had been conceived, soon after independence, for achieving rapid all-round economic progress in our rural areas. It is meant to enable the people to participate in the administration from the grass-root level upwards. It also helps to harness the initiative and experience of the local people to accomplish the tasks of national development. This type of local self-government was not alien to our age-old traditions. Our villages used to be self-sufficient; they kept the social structure intact over the centuries, and withstood many upheavals in history. During our freedom struggle, the concept of Panchayati Raj gained wide popularity and the Father of our Nation Mahatma Gandhi dreamt of self-sufficient village republics. In the early years of our planning, priority was given to the establishment of Panchayati Raj System on sound lines and it is gratifying to note that it is taking deep roots in several parts of the country, especially Maharashtra.

The structure of Panchayati Raj system provides a responsive administrative machinery within easy reach of the people and adds as new dimension to our democracy by imparting additional strength to the democratic system. I hope that the Zilla Parishads may serve the people of their respective districts effectively and become a pillar of strength to the democratic edifice of our nation.

We have various programmes of development for the benefit of rural areas, especially for the down-trodden, neglected and weaker sections of society. These can be effectively implemented with the participation and enthusiasm of the local people. Panchayati Raj System, is suited to carry out these development programmes. I am given to understand that the Nanded Zilla Parishad has acquired a distinction in the matter of implementing various schemes pertaining to Health, Education, Animal Husbandry, Irrigation Works, Agriculture and Social Welfare. This collective approach is necessary to attend to the needs of the community. I congratulate the Nanded Zilla Parishad on its commitment to fulfil the needs and aspirations of the people of the district.

With these few words, I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Nanded Zilla Parishad for giving me this opportunity to inaugurate its new building and share some of my thoughts with you. I wish your endeavours all success.

Window of Progress

I AM GLAD to be here today and to inaugurate the International Trade Fair, which has come to be recognised as a significant national event held at Pragati Maidan every year. An awareness that this Fair is an effective forum for conducting the country's foreign trade is fast catching up among business circles. The magnitude, range and sophistication of display at this Fair have been improving constantly year after year. The Fair provides a unique opportunity to the visitors to appreciate India's industrial and technological progress.

This year, the Fair assumes special significance as it coincides with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meet here. I am sure that the distinguished dignitaries attending the Meet will pay a visit to the Fair and see for themselves the rapid strides made by India in agriculture, industry, commerce, science and technology, and feel convinced of our industrial and technological progress as also the vast potential for exports.

The theme of the Fair has been aptly chosen as "Cooperation Among Developing Countries", which is highly relevant to our times. The need for such cooperation was never so urgent as it is today, as it aims at enabling developing countries to achieve a measure of self-reliance and contribute their mite towards the global prosperity. India is already sharing its 'appropriate technology' with several developing countries. It is gratifying that the new labour intensive technology of ours, which has been evolved after absorbing, adapting, and modifying the modern technology from various sources, has been found to be eminently suited to the growth requirements of other developing countries.

I am happy to note that an ever increasing number of foreign governments representing almost all the regions of the world are coming forward to take part in this Fair. Evidently the foreign participants have come to appreciate the various facilities made available at the Fair. I appreciate the keenness of the Trade Fair Authority to ensure all facilities to the exhibitors from foreign countries like on-the-spot customs clearance, allotment of Fair quota, import and disposal of advertisement and publicity materials, goods for retention for official use of the Missions and amenities to meet import requirements of capital goods and raw materials. I have no hesitation to say that in the course of time, this Fair will become a powerful medium for conducting a sizeable portion of the country's import and export trade.

The national sector at the Fair is represented by a large number of leading public and private sector firms, almost all the States and Union Territories and Central Ministries and Departments. I should take this opportunity to underline the need for big industrial houses to participate in a befitting manner for highlighting the country's achievements and potential. They should come forward spontaneously and share their expertise with the Trade Fair Authority of India and assist in projecting the image of a resurgent and vibrant India. We want to show that a nation is on the move, and there is no gainsaying the fact that their long-term gains hinge on the country's prosperity.

I am happy to learn that apart from organising an attractive display of wide ranging goods and services at the Fair, the Authority has arranged visits of business delegations and a series of topical seminars. It is also heartening to learn that everyday during the Fair there are going to be a number of cultural programmes in various theaters in Pragati Maidan, including ballets, classical dances and music, fashion shows, feature films etc. There are other attractions such as painting competitions for children and so on. All these attractions will, I am sure, make the Fair a big draw. At the same time, I am also confident that the event will result in substantial business both for Indian and foreign participants.

The Trade Fair Authority of India, which is organising this significant national event has already made its vivid impact in the context of promoting

trade through fairs and exhibitions. Being the nodal agency for organising and coordinating India's participations abroad, the Authority is sparing no effort to spread the concept of Fair Culture as a means of international commerce and industrial development. In this context, I cannot but refer to the dynamic leadership of unfailing zeal of Shri Mohammad Yunus, the Chairman of the Trade Fair Authority of India, whose dedication to the cause of trade promotion through fairs is commendable. I am confident that the Authority under his guidance, will grow from strength to strength in the years to come.

I thank Shri Mohammad Yunus for inviting me here. With these words, I have pleasure in declaring open the Indian International Trade Fair, 1983.

Role of Accountancy

I AM GLAD to be here today and to inaugurate the Tenth Conference of the Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants. I welcome you all to this historic city and wish you all a pleasant stay here. International conferences provide a valuable opportunity for an exchange of ideas and experiences between the delegates of various countries ; they also afford excellent avenues to further international cooperation and friendship.

I am given to understand that 28 accountancy organisations from 21 member countries of the Confederation of the Asian and Pacific Accountants are participating in this Conference. Most of the countries in this region face similar economic problems, engaged as they are in the task of economic development. They face many common problems in many economic transactions within themselves as well as with the developed countries.

The Public Accountant has a dual role wherein he not only maintains books of accounts and prepares the financial statements, indicating the profit and loss and the assets of a concern, but also audits the accounts of various concerns and prepares a Report on the basis of such audits. In both these functions, he is expected to observe certain professional as also legal standards which are designed to ensure that persons who either need to know or are interested in knowing about the functioning of a concern, have access to the requisite information, presented without undue ambiguity. Specially in the developing countries of the Asian and Pacific Region, most of which are faced with the problems arising out of scarce material or financial resources, it is of interest to a citizen whether these scarce resources, are being used in

optimal manner, both by the public sector as well as by private sector concerns. In so far as the Accountant brings to bear high ethical standards and professional competence on the preparation of accounts and Auditors' Reports, he undertakes a social responsibility, which is of relevance to all the citizens of his society.

In a rapidly changing world, Accountants as a professional group have to evolve new concepts and procedures to meet the varied demands made by society on its skills. One of the areas where attention could perhaps be gainfully focussed, is the evaluation of the cost or benefit to society of different enterprises, in other words, the field of "social audit". With growing awareness of the possible adverse environmental and sociological effects of rapid and large scale industrialisation, it is not sufficient to judge organisations on the basis of their financial results alone. It is also necessary to take into account the effect of such enterprises on the society within which they are operated. I wonder if it is possible for Accountants to evolve the necessary theoretical concepts that would enable us to measure such effects in well quantified monetary terms.

The Accountant today is not merely a recorder of financial transactions or an Auditor, but also a key member of the management team of any organisation. In a developing economy, it is the Accountants who are responsible for ensuring that scarce resources are utilised in the most economic fashion and that different manufacturing and other processes are run to the best possible advantage of the organisation as well as the society.

Accountancy has made great strides from purely financial accounting through cost accounting to what is today called management accountancy. With the advent of micro processors, computerised accounting systems have become increasingly common, thus requiring the evaluation of new concepts which will make possible the most advantageous utilisation of the incredible speed with which accounting data can be prepared and the manifold ways in which it can be presented for the use of managements. New methods will have to be evolved to ensure proper auditing of such computerised accountancy systems where magnetic tapes will take the place of ledgers and folios with which Accountants are commonly associated.

As most of the member countries of Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants are at varying stages of economic development, the problems and situations faced by them will be similar and exchange of ideas and experiences between the delegates from the participating countries will add a new dimension to their role. I congratulate the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and the Institute of Cost and Works Accountants of India for hosting this Conference here. I hope that the delegates from foreign countries will enjoy their stay here and carry back pleasant memories.

With these few words, I have great pleasure in inaugurating the Conference. I thank the organisers for inviting me here today. I wish the Conference all success.

Importance of Khadi

I AM GLAD to be here today and to lay the foundation stone of the model training-cum-production centre of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission. The very mention of Khadi and Village Industries reminds us of the constructive programme of Mahatma Gandhi who made their development as an integral part of our freedom struggle. The Government have given an institutional expression through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission for the development of this vital sector, which was accorded with due emphasis and priority in our five year developmental plans.

Considerable progress has been made in this sector over the last three decades in all parts of the country which has benefited lakhs of families living in rural and semi-urban areas. By their very nature, khadi and village industries are labour intensive, with multiple benefits especially to the backward and down-trodden sections of population. The traditional village industries, including khadi, handloom, sericulture, handicrafts and coir products, provide employment opportunities on full time or part time basis to millions of our rural population. The products of village industries have great export potential and have become our important foreign exchange earners. Moreover, embodying our ancient cultural tradition, their exports help in creating international goodwill for India.

The problem of raising the level of technical skill of lakhs of artisans engaged in this sector and other related problems have been receiving constant attention of our planners. This Model Training-cum-Production Centre here is one such, meant to provide training facilities for artisans in the use of latest techniques of production. I am told that the present scheme envisages the establishment of a full-fledged centre for imparting training from carding of cotton to processing of finished cloth, including a separate wing for designing and design weaving. I feel heartened to know that this training centre will provide training facilities for people from other developing countries also. I am sure that once the whole project is ready, it will be able to meet the long-felt needs of artisans in Bihar. I am given to understand that about 6000 artisans will be benefited from this project. This is a field where more investment is desirable as the accruing benefits to poor people will be direct and quick. I am confident that the Government of Bihar will take energetic steps in this direction and see that this project is completed as early as possible.

I thank the Government of Bihar for inviting me for this function.

Speech at the foundation stone laying ceremony of Khadi and Village Industries Commission's Centre, Patna, December 3, 1983



Being sworn in as 10th President of India, New Delhi, July 25, 1982



With Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi, July 26, 1982



*With Vice-President M. Hidayatullah at Rashtrapati Bhavan,
July 29, 1982*

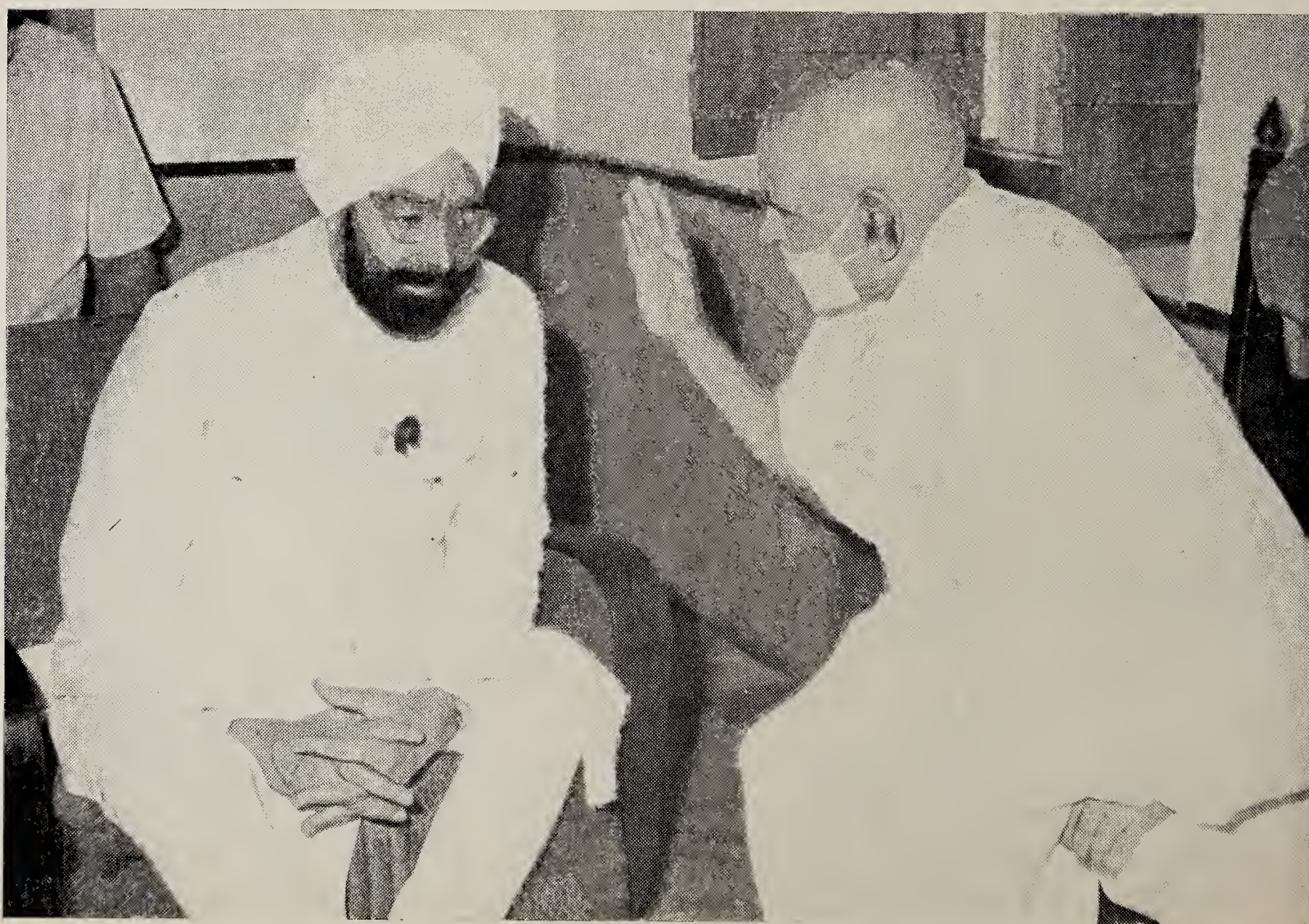
At Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Museum, July 26, 1982

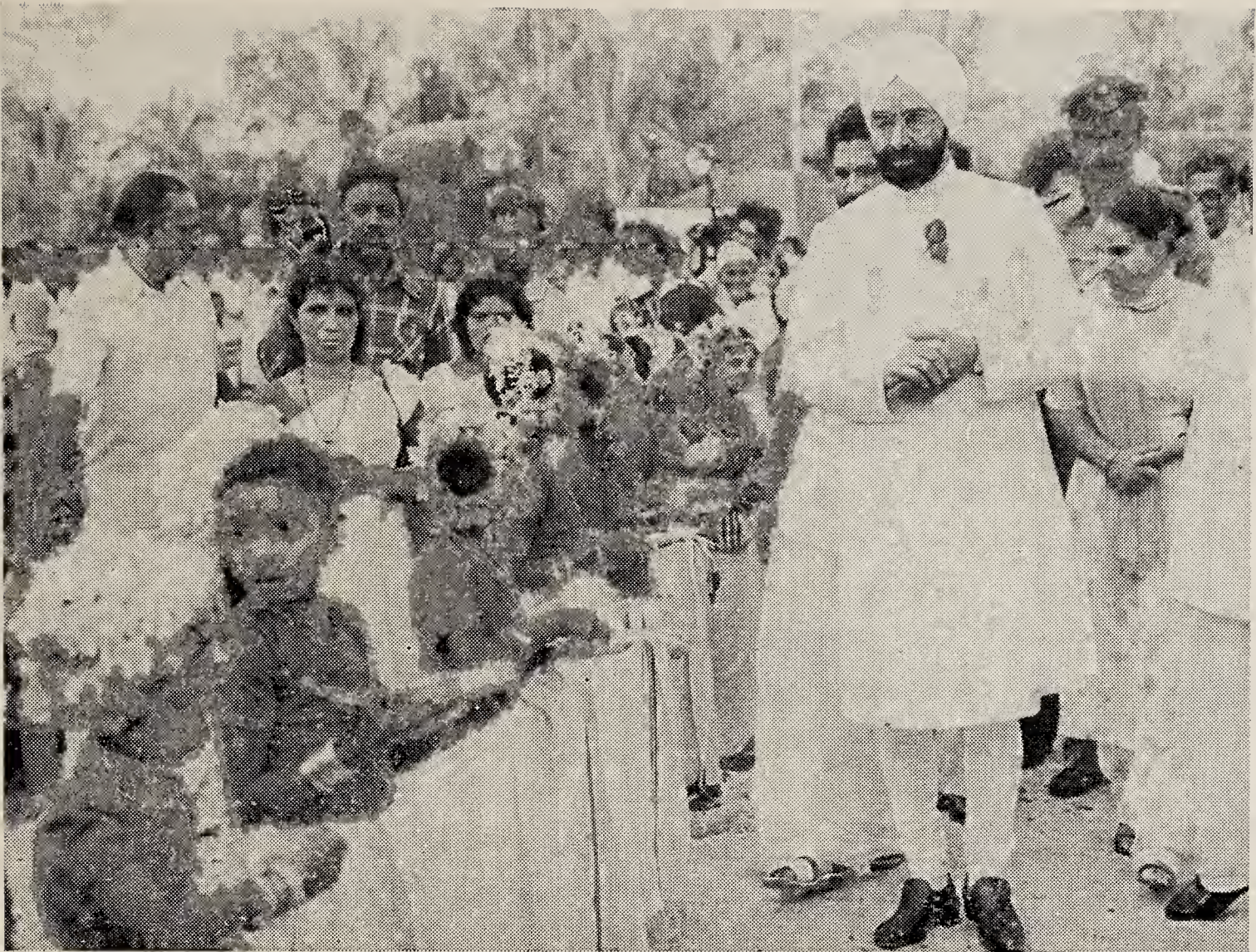




Being greeted at Dargah Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia on Annual Urs, August 9, 1982

Attended a function of Jain Congregation at Sriyari, Rajasthan, September 1, 1982

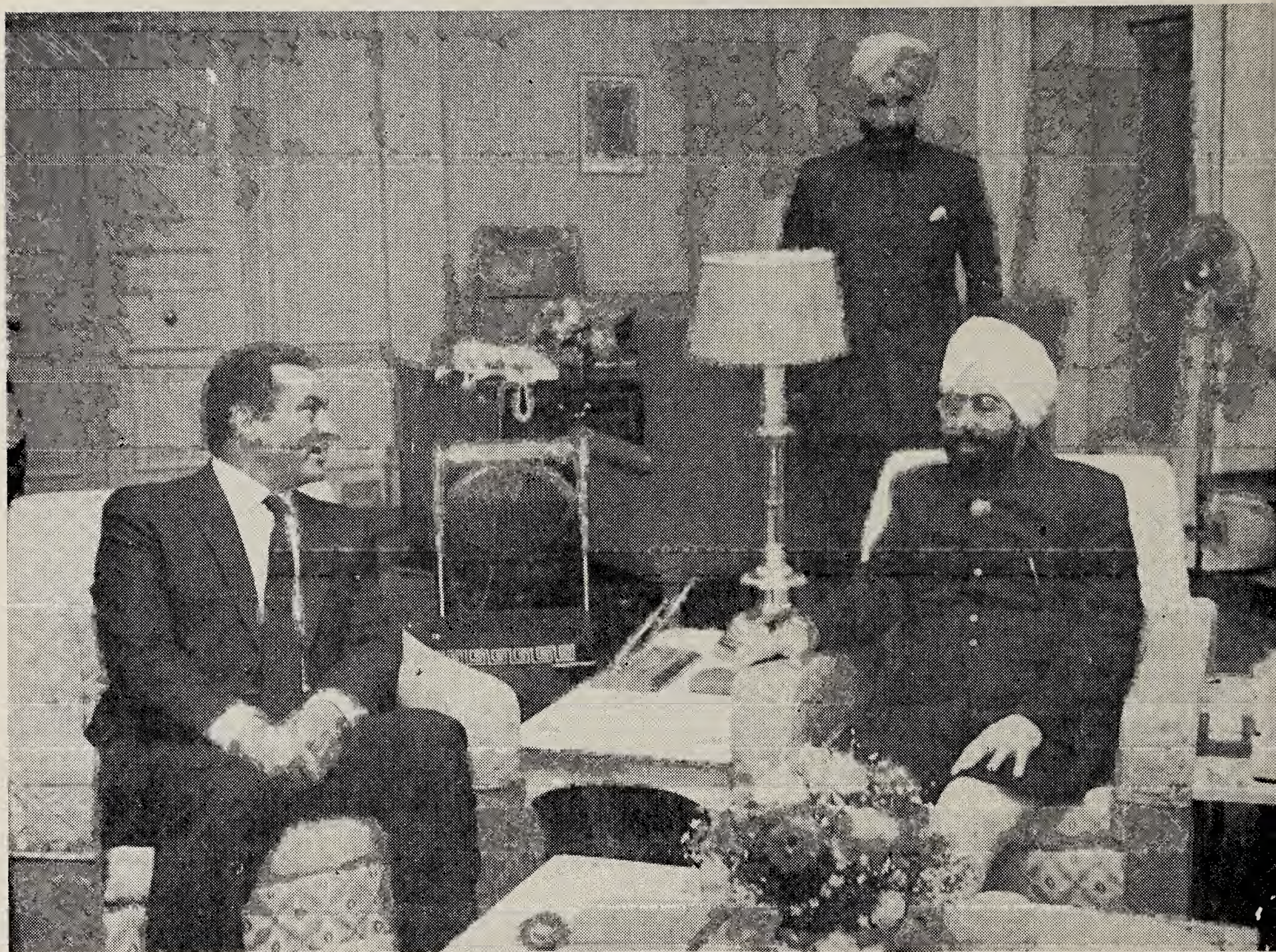




Visited a Harijan colony at Trivandrum, September 11, 1982

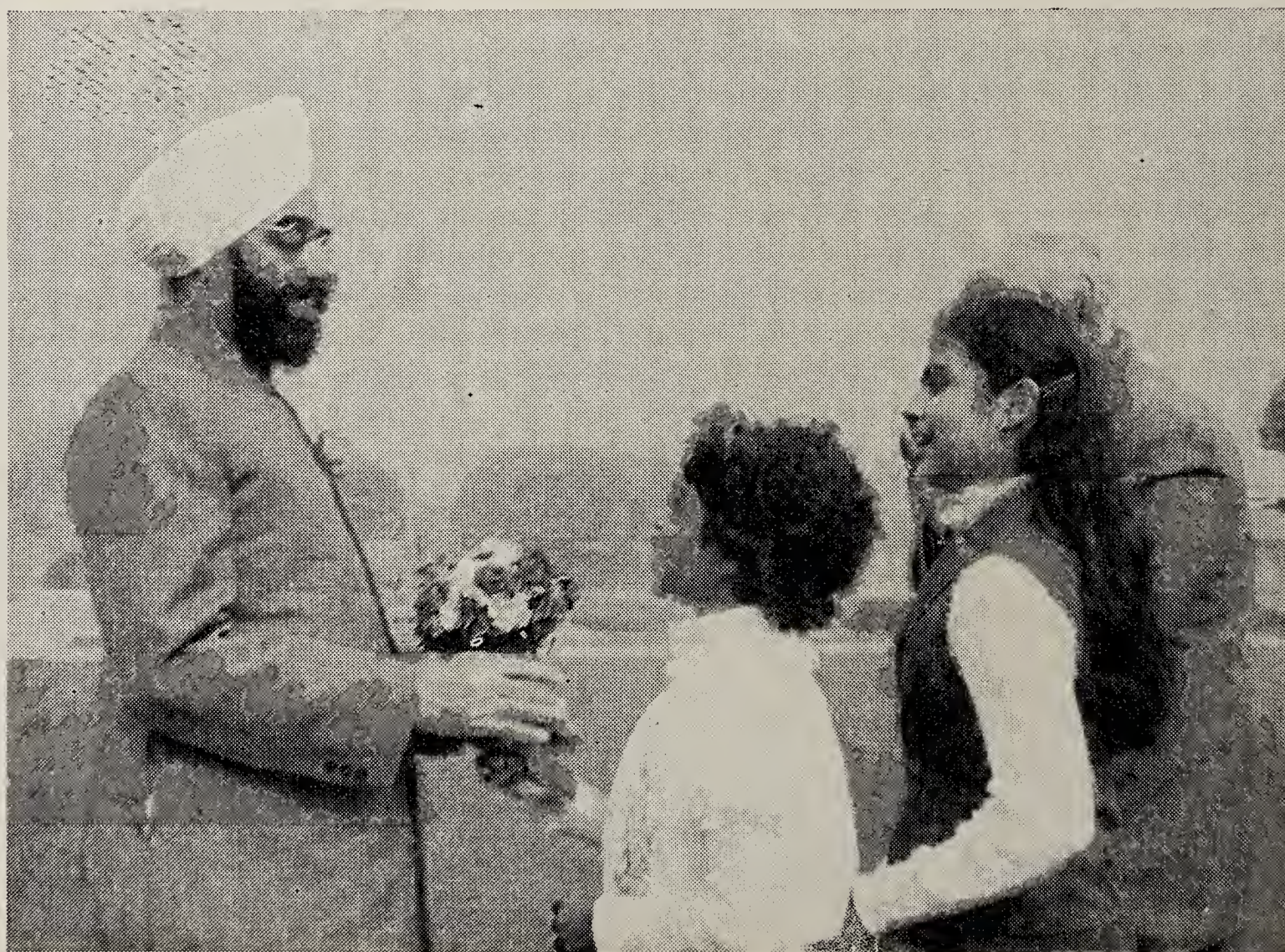
With Mr. F. Mitterrand, President of France, New Delhi, November 11, 1982





Talking to H.E. Hosni Mubarak, President of Egypt, New Delhi, November 30, 1982

Receiving New Year Greetings from children, New Delhi, January 1, 1983





Recording a message to the Nation on AIR and TV, January 14, 1983



With Shri N. Sanjeeva Reddy former President of India

Industrial Development

I AM HAPPY to be here today and to inaugurate the two new units—the Nylon and the Scooter Plants of Lohia Machines Ltd. I congratulate all of you, entrepreneurs, managers, engineers, technicians and workers associated with these units.

The resources of developing countries like India are relatively limited. How shall we use these resources? What priorities shall we give? These questions obviously call for planned approach so that each step might lead to other steps and development takes place in a proper sequence.

A programme of planned progress means industrialisation. It means adoption of modern techniques. In an agricultural country like ours, it is obvious that agriculture itself has to play a vital and basic role to support industrial development.

How are we to industrialise this country? Historically, countries approach this question in different ways. So far as we are concerned, we have to do it as rapidly as we can. We cannot afford to lengthen out this process because all kinds of social problems tend to overwhelm us. There is no single method of industrialisation. We have to advance all along the line. While we are developing the basic and heavy industries as fast as we can, we are equally anxious to develop the middle industries in a very big way. While we want to control the basic industries through planned development and the establishment of public enterprises, yet at the same time we encourage private enterprise in a vast field. If we want to increase our production and generate more gainful employment, we should explore all avenues of doing so and not follow any rigid line.

The National Industrial Policy has yielded very encouraging results. India has made significant advances in the development of industry since the advent of planning after independence. From a narrow base of traditional industries such as cotton and jute textiles, plantation, light engineering and consumer goods industries established prior to the achievement of Independence in 1947, a stage of near self-sufficiency has been attained in many basic, heavy and consumer goods industries. Over the long period 1950-51 to 1980-81, the overall average rate of growth in industrial production worked out to over 6 per cent. The capital goods production has now reached a level of over fifty per cent of the total industrial output. The range of products manufactured is large and comparable to many developed countries. A chain of Technology Institutes and Engineering Colleges has produced a vast reservoir of skilled, technical and management personnel. This has enabled the country to follow an autonomous path of development and growth.

Uttar Pradesh, the State with the largest population is a symbol of our composite culture and historical traditions. It is famous for its schools and music and dance, folk paintings and handicrafts. While it played a leading role in our struggle for freedom yet today it is categorised as an industrially backward State. As you are aware, such regional disparities are not conducive to the progress of the country and can hamper our unity and integrity.

I am therefore glad to know that both the Central and the State Governments have adopted a highly result-oriented strategy to give a new thrust to industrialisation in U.P. with particular reference to its backward regions. A new package of incentives has been announced by the Central Government to subsidise industrial investments in 42 backward districts of U.P. The State Government has also offered a number of concessions and incentives to attract and support industrial investments and to fully utilise the great potential for industrial development represented by its vast manpower and infrastructural facilities. I am given to understand that new investments totalling over Rs. 3,500 crores have been planned for the next few years by the Central and the State Public Sectors. I hope this will trigger many more industrial projects and usher in a new era of progress and prosperity in this cradle of our arts and crafts.

I understand that both these plants have been put up in a record time. The Scooter Plant has been put up within seven months after the issue of the industrial licence. This remarkable achievement of the company will, I hope, help it to avoid the cost over runs and enable it to bring down the cost of the finished products for the consumers.

I am informed that both these projects are based on latest technologies. The Nylon-6 Plant is the first of its kind based on the continuous polymerisation process. The Scooter Plant is one of the most modern and brings to our country the world's most contemporary technology and a highly fuel-efficient product.

It has been mentioned that both these projects will provide direct and indirect employment to about 13,000 persons. These will also generate employment in the decentralised sector by providing work for weavers and kitters in the case of new Nylon Project and to many ancillaries for the Scooter Plant. These will therefore help in making a useful dent on the unemployment problem now looming large before the country.

While making industrial progress, we have to bear in mind that we should not think of industrial progress at any cost, by hook or crook, but make progress in a rational and equitable way so that the ordinary man in the street feels that he is getting the benefit of our planned involvement. I hope that those who run these plants will keep this in mind.

I once again wish to congratulate all those connected with these two projects. I have great pleasure in declaring these factories open and dedicating them to the service of our whole Nation.

Promotion of Exports

I AM HAPPY to be here this morning and to associate myself with the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Chemicals and Allied Products Export Council. During the 25 years of its existence, the Council has done useful work, as is borne out by the growth of exports of chemical-based allied products from a modest figure of Rs. 7 crores to the present impressive level of Rs. 232 crores. The Council deserves to be congratulated on its performance.

Since independence the country has made significant progress in the development of agriculture and industry and in creating the infrastructure for a wide range of services. We are now in a position to manufacture almost all types of capital and consumer goods including sophisticated equipments and electronic softwares and so on. The export base of the country has also been widened and strengthened. It is appropriate that on this occasion we consider what we have already been able to do to promote exports and what remains to be done still.

Exports play a vital role in the country's economic development and it is necessary to increase our foreign exchange earnings from trade and services. Increased foreign exchange earnings will give us more resources and enable us to pursue plans for economic development on a more sustained basis. This is the way to attain a self-sustaining growth rate. It is imperative to bring about a rapid acceleration in our exports and generate more resources for meeting the country's foreign exchange needs.

India now is a leading industrial manufacturer among the developing countries, with a sound infrastructure. Our technical and scientific manpower is one of the largest in the world. We now have the manufacturing capacity in a wide range of heavy, medium and light industries and there has been substantial increase in the export of manufactured goods. The paramount need now is to increase our share in the total world trade. Our aim for the current decade should be to secure a much higher share of the world market and also to diversify the composition of our exports.

I am given to understand that in the late 50's when the Council was set up, the bulk of its export, consisted of primary products and raw materials. I am told that the position has totally changed and over 80% of Council's export now consist of finished and manufactured products. There is no doubt of scope for further efforts in this direction. I am happy to learn that Indian technology for chemical-based products is now in much demand among the developing countries as well as in developed countries. It is heartening that the Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council plans to step up

its exports by nearly four fold to reach a level of Rs. 800 crores by the end of the present decade.

The objectives which the Council has set before itself are laudable. These goals can be reached only if every member of the Council makes his own contribution. Each manufacturer must stress on the quality of its product, so that goods produced by our country may find ready acceptance all over the world.

The success of any effort for a sustained export drive depends on actual handling and execution of overseas enquiries/orders. The image of Indian exporters as reliable suppliers of goods of requisite quality can be built up only by the assiduous efforts of our exporters. Quality consciousness has to be a part of our export culture. It may not be difficult to find reasons for non-performance, but a buyer is not interested in knowing why he has not received the goods which he has asked for. He is interested only in getting the goods of the right quality and at the right time. A satisfied client is the best publicity for an exporter and an exporting country. I would advise the members of the Council to keep this constantly in mind and spare no efforts to see that their performance matches their obligations and promises.

I thank Shri V.P. Singh, Minister of Commerce and the Chemicals and Allied Products export Promotion Council for inviting me to this function today.

Problems of Marketing

I AM HAPPY to be in your midst today and to inaugurate the 84th Third World Marketing Congress. It gives me great pleasure to see a host of management experts assembled here from different countries to discuss a theme of crucial importance to all developing countries, namely 'International Marketing and Management of Small Enterprises'. I commend the theme of this Congress because of the emphasis on 'production by the masses' rather than mass production.

It is also a pleasant augury that this occasion is utilised for recognition of entrepreneurial and marketing talents, by way of awards set up by the Institute of Marketing Management, in collaboration with some of the well known corporate units. I congratulate the award winners and hope that they will continue to strive for still higher levels of excellence. To those who competed but could not win the awards I give them my best wishes for better success in future.

Small enterprises are found virtually in every sector of business endeavour. Many countries have increasingly come to rely on small enterprises for bringing about an equitable distribution of national wealth, creation of greater employment opportunities for the increasing population and for securing a balanced regional growth. They play a useful role in the utilisation of indigenous resources and skills which might otherwise remain untapped and help in mobilising small savings in the semi-urban and rural areas along with their inherent ability to cater to local needs quickly at lower cost. More than all, I feel that the small sector also serves as an effective medium for the transfer of latest and appropriate technology from urban to rural sectors and from developed to developing countries which is a must for increasing productivity.

The economic importance of small enterprises in global perspective is well recognised all over the world. With relatively low capital intensity, the small sector has been effectively supplementing production efforts of the larger enterprises. More and more large-scale units are 'farming out' production of a large number of parts and components to ancillary units.

There is enormous scope for small enterprises in India. Gandhiji repeatedly emphasised the fact that the soul of India lies in its villages. It is but appropriate that the humming of the wheels of small industry is echoed in rural India, symbolising the twin concepts of self-sufficiency and self-reliance. The small scale sector in our country has taken rapid strides in the last few years. I am told that there are more than 10 lakhs of small enterprises, employing about 80 lakhs of people and they account for nearly 49% of our total industrial output, valued at Rs. 35,000 crores at current prices. It is also heartening to note that the small sector has been contributing its share to the country's export effort. Because of this pivotal role of small scale industries in our economy, the Government have taken a number of policy measures to strengthen them. However, they encounter a variety of problems in the field of marketing, market research and exports.

International trade is steadily expanding with many newly industrialised countries adopting the strategies of export-led growth. The major problems in international marketing are want of adequate information about international markets, absence of testing facilities to ensure quality control and standardisation of products, inadequate resources for advertising and lack of an organised network for sales and above all want of a suitable coordinating agency. This lacuna underlines the need for developing appropriate marketing strategies so as to strengthen the inherent potential of the small sector and for making a dent in overseas markets, which are highly competitive.

I am happy to learn that your Institute has set up 23 chapters throughout the length and breadth of the country—from Srinagar to Cochin and from Kutch to Gauhati. I further understand that 22 more chapters are in

the offing. I hope that through this network your Institute will try to cover small enterprises located in different regions and organise suitable management training for them.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have given expression to my stray thoughts on this subject. As experts in the management field it is for you to evolve an appropriate international marketing and management strategy suitable for the small enterprises in the Third World. I am sure that the Government would welcome constructive suggestions out of your deliberations.

To overseas delegates, I offer you my warm felicitations. I hope your stay in this country will be fruitful and pleasant. I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year.

I have great pleasure in inaugurating the 84th Third World Marketing Congress. I thank the Institute of Marketing Management for inviting me here to this function.

Concept of Self-Reliance

IT IS A matter of great pleasure to be here in your midst on the occasion of your Annual Function to give away National Awards and Certificates of Merit for outstanding export performance. Exports have a major role to play in the developing of our national economy and those who are actively engaged in the promotion and expansion of our exports can rightly feel proud of their involvement in an area of crucial importance to the nation.

Our development plans are based on the concept of self-reliant growth. We have drawn on the country's own resources and indigenous talents. While our forntiers, we have, while taking note of such development, relied essentially on our own experience and needs to evolve solutions to our problems. It is this approach that I would commend once again in resolving the serious difficulties which we are confronting on the trade front.

India's share in the world exports have declined over a period of time. At one point of time our share of the world exports was of the order of 2.9%. This has declined to 0.4%. This has happened while various other countries, not far from our shares, have considerably enlarged their share of world exports. In recent times, the general feature has been one of recurring deficits on trade account.

The foreign trade of a country is dependent upon multiple variables. Exports, for instance, are affected by external environment. The dynamics of

exports of a developing country are far more limited than those of a developed country. A developing country has the problem of coping up with emergent domestic demands which are not substantially met. The need to develop and sustain international markets has to be matched with the need to ensure that scarcity conditions are not created in the domestic market.

The need of the hour is to have an efficient management of foreign trade. Imports have to be contained and exports expanded. Both are feasible. Happily enough our domestic production of oil is making it possible to cut down imports to a significant extent. We can expect production in this sector to increase, and consequent reduction in the import bill. Imports of various other commodities like cement and fertiliser can be reduced when domestic capacity is better utilised with greater availability of inputs.

We have to take urgent steps to cope with the infra-structural deficiencies in areas such as power, transport and communications. Availability of raw materials and other inputs in time and at competitive prices has to be ensured. Government have taken various measures to ensure availability of raw materials and inputs at competitive prices. Efforts in this regard need to be made more comprehensive.

There is greater need for export-oriented production planning. Our approach to production and marketing has so far been largely domestic-oriented. We must take note of the changing pattern of world demand and respond quickly to the needs of international marketing. An aggressive effort should go into the projection of our capabilities and industrial image. I am glad to note that a pragmatic policy has been adopted in regard to technology induction and modernisation. We must be fully aware of the technological changes taking place elsewhere concerning design, finish, packaging and so on.

A matter of satisfaction in recent years is that India's project exports have made rapid progress though primarily in the field of civil engineering construction. I hope that suitable steps will be taken to promote project exports in other areas also, such as industrial turnkey projects where we have capabilities.

I feel that what is of paramount importance in export trade is that those who secure orders or contracts should execute contracts in time and according to stipulated quality. This will improve the country's image. A careful watch will have to be kept on major contracts in order that no slippages take place.

The task before us is no doubt difficult but in our battle for developing of our economy and the amelioration of the lot of our masses we have to take such difficulties in our stride and triumph over them. I have no doubt that our outstanding industrialists and exporters will rise to the occasion, accept the challenge and forge ahead. Congratulating heartily those who

have received the National Awards and Certificates of Merit, I can assure them that they will continue to receive the fullest support and encouragement from the Government.

I thank the Union Minister of Commerce, Shri V. P. Singh for inviting me to this function.

Rural Reconstruction

I FEEL GREATLY thrilled to be here at Sriniketan to participate in the Foundation Day Celebration of the Institute of Rural Reconstruction. Sixty two years ago, on this very day, Gurudev Rabindra Nath Tagore had founded this Institute as a step towards the fulfilment of his vision of a revitalised and self-reliant rural India. When Gurudev started Sriniketan, the thoughts that were uppermost in his mind were to arouse the self-confidence among the villagers and imbibe in them a spirit of self-help and a desire to rely on their collective strength for the solution of their manifold problems. Gurudev hoped to realise his long-cherished dream of founding a University as an integral part of the life of surrounding country-side. On this Annual Day, I pay my respectful homage to the great poet and visionary, whose ideas gave birth to the Vishwa Bharati, of which the Institute of Rural Reconstruction at Sriniketan is an integral part, and whose presence one can still feel guiding and inspiring the activities of this Institution.

Since the achievement of our national independence, we have been trying in a planned manner to bring about the regeneration of rural India. During the days of the freedom struggle, Mahatma Gandhi was never tired of reminding us that India lives in her villages. A proper scheme of rural reconstruction was considered essential by Mahatma Gandhi as well as Gurudev Rabindra Nath for the social and economic emancipation of the oppressed and downtrodden people living in our villages. It is remarkable that, a great poet and artist as he was, Gurudev Rabindra Nath did not miss the practical aspects of life and he spent a good deal of his time in thinking of the problems of the rural people, of their social and economic backwardness, of their lack of the spirit of self-reliance, and he took it upon himself to show a practical path for the rural people to reorganise their life. In his own words, he considered the founding of Sriniketan as an act of fulfilment of one of the purposes of his life.

What is remarkable is that Gurudev considered rural reconstruction as basically a problem of inculcating in the villagers a sense of dignity and

a sense of self-reliance. He anticipated the integrated concept of rural development in which crop farming, dairy, poultry and other allied agricultural occupations, as well as handicrafts would play their part. The skills of the villagers, whether they are farmers or artisans, are to be developed and utilised in productive channels. Inspired with this approach, Sriniketan has acted as a pioneering institution in promoting cottage industries through the activities of Shilpa Sadan. Here, in this surrounding, one finds a blending of education with the practice of crafts, so that each trainee learns to harmonise his mental development with the surrounding nature and this helps to develop his whole personality.

The annual celebration of the Foundation Day here is not only a festive occasion, but also a creative one. Different departments and institutions of Vishwa Bharati as well as of many Government departments and agencies participate in the agriculture and craft exhibition and Mela, illustrating their activities in different fields. Demonstrations in craft making, poultry keeping, sericulture, pisciculture are also held on this occasion. There is a vegetable show, a flower show, and prizes are given for the best exhibits ; there is rally of village Scouts. I am particularly happy to learn that a Gram Karmi Sammelan is held during the celebration, in which the workers of different village welfare societies and rural organisations discuss together the problems and try to work-out solutions in the light of their experiences.

Gurudev Rabindra Nath had dreamt of Sriniketan being a growth centre from which ideas and inspirations would flow to other parts of the country, and help to reconstruct the social and economic order in our villages. The annual activities of Sriniketan are a continuation of the process of fulfilment of this dream. I have no doubt that the teachers, the artists, the workers at village level, the farmers, and the artisans who are engaged in the activities of Sriniketan, are doing their best to contribute to the fulfilment of this dream. To the students who have won prizes and certificates in today's Convocation, I give my congratulations and good wishes. My thanks are due to the Upacharya who invited me to take part in this celebration.

Evolving Healthy Conventions

I AM GLAD to be here to inaugurate the Golden Jubilee Convention of India Society of Engineers. It is indeed a pleasure for me to be associated with the deliberations of a professional body like yours.

This Society, founded fifty years ago, was a good step forward in the country's march to freedom and progress. It was fortunate that the Society's leadership chose not to make it an elitist organization, but one with

a down-to-earth philosophy and pragmatic approach. It provided a platform to the engineering and technical hands with or without University education, but trained in the hard field of experience. It truly broke the tradition and upgraded the technical working force. In this noble effort the Society, I am glad to note, has had the distinction of being associated in its earlier years with eminent personalities like Nobel Laureate Dr. C.V. Raman, Dr. Kailash Nath Katju and Shri V.V. Giri.

Your Society, I am told, has a very wide membership throughout the country and also a few branches abroad in countries such as Saudi Arabia, Nigeria and United States of America. It gives me much pleasure to learn that your Society has prepared and submitted engineering plans to the Government on subjects such as low cost buildings for lower income group people of West Bengal, and garbage removal in Greater Calcutta area. A Society of learned experts, such as yours, can contribute a lot to the solution of technological problems facing the country in its march towards economic development. The theme of the seminar you will be holding as part of the Golden Jubilee Convention, namely, "trends of technology in the coming years" is one of great relevance in this context and I do hope that your deliberations will be focused on practical issues and your recommendations will deserve careful consideration of Government, both Central and States.

Over the last three decades, we have had a tremendous expansion of engineering education in our country, and we now possess the third largest trained manpower in the technical and scientific fields. In ensuring that this vast reservoir of manpower is harnessed properly to promote larger production and prosperity in the country, a Society such as yours, can play a useful role. You are to think of new technologies and new techniques suitable for our conditions in the appropriate field, as that is the way to reduce dependence on the import of foreign goods and technology. This should be a continuous process. Our engineers should always try to create new things and methods through research and development. This Society through its membership of qualified and experienced engineers and technicians will no doubt play its part in the task of nation building.

I also wish to say that the engineers of today and tomorrow must not only be conversant with newer technology, but also be motivated to work in villages and for improvement of the rural economy. The condition of the villages is to be improved as rapidly as possible despite various constraints, economic, social and political. Our engineers should take up the challenge of changing the face of rural India by working harder under difficulties and suggesting innovations to solve the problems as they come up. Unless we achieve progress this way, our technological knowledge and skills will not acquire relevance to the national development.

With these few words I have great pleasure in inaugurating the Golden Jubilee Convention of India Society of Engineers. I extend my good wishes to the organisers and participants and wish it all success.

Vital Role of Polyester Industry

I AM GLAD to be here today and to lay the foundation stone of the Joint-sector project to manufacture Polyester Staple fibre. This project, I am sure, will add a new dimension to the industrialisation programme of Uttar Pradesh, the biggest State in Indian Union. In recent years, the State has been striving to start many industries and I hope that the State will soon occupy a place of pride in the industrial map of India.

As you all know, there has been a growing trend of shortages in natural inputs like cotton for the textile industry. The shortage looms large on the horizon, if the likely growth in numbers as well as in demand, caused by increasing prosperity, is taken into account while planning for the future. In order to overcome such prospective shortages, and to make available cloth to the people, the Government have thought it necessary to encourage the development of artificial fibres. It is heartening to see that this policy has paid rich dividends and the industry has made considerable progress. The Polyester fibre has become so versatile that it is being used as a mixture in the production of khadi also which is becoming more popular. I am given to understand that this project will be a pioneering one in the sense of using the sophisticated continuous polymerisation process. I congratulate the Government of Uttar Pradesh and its Industrial and Investment Corporation for setting up this in an economically backward area as a joint sector project in collaboration with Phillips Carbon Black Limited, a noted professionally managed company in the private sector. I am confident that speedy completion of this project will usher in an era of prosperity to the people here and will have beneficial impact on country's balance of payments position as it helps in import substitution.

May I say a few words to the entrepreneurs of this new venture? A successful industrial enterprise will be one where all the factors of production get an equal treatment from the management. A more successful one will be the one, where the essential input that is labour, is treated with equality and respect. It is very essential for the labour to be associated closely with the management at every stage. They should be treated as equal partners in every way and I feel that this will ensure greater success. I am aware of various labour welfare measures that are in vogue now; yet I feel that labour should be entitled for a share in the income of the company in all fairness. When we are going ahead with latest and sophisticated technology, it is also necessary to move forward with a pioneering approach towards labour, as ultimately the sum total of happiness depends upon the welfare and happiness of the human factor. As I see, all the problems in the field of management

are fundamentally because of absence of this human approach. Man behind the machine is always more important and should be uppermost in our minds. Neglect of this human factor causes all complications and problems. Yours is a new venture and I trust that you will strive to create ideal conditions for labour from the very beginning.

With these few words, I conclude by thanking the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh for inviting me here to lay the foundation stone of this project. I wish it all success in future.

Preserving Forest Wealth

IT IS INDEED a great pleasure for me to be with you here today, amidst these sylvan surroundings that you have nurtured over the years, and the gracious buildings that evoke the splendour of a bygone age. A new batch of young officers is being added to the Indian Service, the State Forest Service and the Range Officers' cadres of various States today. I also understand that the Second Social Forestry Diploma Course, the first of its kind in India, is coming to successful completion and inservice officers trained are passing out today.

To all of you—successful students and trainees—I offer my congratulations. You have successfully completed your training course here at the Forest Colleges. This entitles you to get a degree or a diploma or a certificate in forestry and also write certain qualifications with your names. But the real challenge of life eagerly awaits you. This challenge will have no examination, no diploma, but would require your selfless service for the rest of your career. Life itself is the testing ground, and the reward. In short, it is only from now onwards that your mettle, your abilities and qualities as a human being and a public servant, would be put to test.

What sort of role does the nation expect of you, her technocrats and administrators? You, my friends, are the thews and sinews of our polity in general and the forest administration in particular. Without an efficient and impartial administration, people will not be able to achieve the economic growth and development, that is possible with the help of the forest resources of which you are now going to be the custodians. Our administration must protect the weak against the strong, the poor from exploitation by the rich, the law-abiding from the law-breakers. This, my young friends, is a very high standard to live up to. It requires a scrupulous observance of certain age-old but time-tested norms of behaviour and deportment.

It is widely recognised that trees play a vital role in maintaining balance in nature and providing the necessary environment for human welfare and happiness. The attention of the whole world is now focussed on this problem of environmental balance which has acquired a new urgency, because of increasing dangers from pollution. In India, we have a tradition of worshipping trees as part and parcel of our cultural life. But the needs of modernisation and economic development appear to be in conflict with the needs of forestry and environment. While making plans for economic development, we must not ignore the adverse consequences arising out of felling of trees. No doubt, the wood requirements have increased tremendously and are still increasing at a fast rate, the fuel requirements of people, especially the economically backward sections, have to be met. In a way, the problems of food and fuel for the people are so intertwined that it is difficult to separate them as two separate issues. This is a problem for every one of us and it is the social responsibility of the society. The responsibility will be much more on your shoulders, young friends, and I am sure that you will do well in discharging these responsibilities to the best of your abilities. What is needed is sincerity and devotion to work. Growing a tree is like bring up a child—both need abundant love and motherly affection. This is the kind of attitude which I advise you all to cultivate.

I believe that you are all aware of the National Forest Policy Resolution, 1952 which aimed at increasing the forest areas in the country to 33% of the total land area. A programme of *Vana Mahotsav* was launched. However, what happened since then is very strange. Instead of having expanded areas under forests, we are steadily losing ground. Now, I understand, that only about 23 per cent of the total land area is under forests. The adverse consequences arising out of dwindling forest resources are now manifesting in numerous ways such as flash-floods, landslides, soil erosion, erratic monsoons, and increasing rates of silt formation in canals and reservoirs. To put it in quantitative terms, the monetary loss to the country would amount to astronomical figures, relegating to the background the gains if any, though temporary. The damage caused by indiscriminate deforestation to the eco-system of India has to be recouped forthwith and the process reversed before the end of the century. It is for you, young friends, to reflect on the reasons for the failure of the 1952 National Forest Policy and take corrective steps to rectify the situation. People have become very conscious now of the dangerous situation that has arisen. The *Chipko movement* started a couple of years ago is gaining momentum. Forestry is becoming people's movement which should be welcomed by all of us whole heartedly. The destiny of this great country depends upon the success we achieve in this field.

Though you are all fully aware of the thrust of our present forest policy, I would like to emphasise the urgency with which we have to exert ourselves in the coming years. The three basic objectives of our policy as

enunciated in the 6th Five Year Plan have been well thought out from the point of view of meeting the needs (a) of ecological security (b) of fuel, fodder and other domestic requirements and (c) of growing industrial demand.

I am happy to notice that this slogan "Tree for every child" is increasingly becoming popular throughout the country. In fact, I would like to go a step further and add that every citizen should consider it as his fundamental duty to plant and grow a tree, as his contribution to the country.

You are members of the Indian Forest Service, or the State Forest Service, or of other Forest cadres at various levels. You will no doubt have problems relating to your status, pay and promotion prospects in your respective services. In a polity like ours, there is a complex intertwining of various strands, there are various pressures, pulls and pushes. I hope, however, that you will not be too much pre-occupied with your status and prospects. I have no doubt that Government will do everything possible to ensure reasonable prospects in your service. You have joined a very challenging and adventurous profession, in which you would be creating sylvan surroundings, improving the environment and quality of life of the people. Such a job well performed will be source of satisfaction and give you a sense of fulfilment.

I am glad to know that amongst you are also forest officer trainees from the neighbouring and friendly countries of Afghanistan, Bhutan and Nepal for receiving their forestry diplomas. I extend my congratulations and good wishes to them. I am also very happy to see that many ladies have joined the Forest Service and passed through the course here. I congratulate them heartily. I also congratulate all the prize winners.

I thank the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Rao Birendra Singh, for providing me an opportunity to come here for addressing this Convocation.

Food for All

I AM HAPPY to be with you on the occasion of the 26th General Conference of your Federation. I am told that your organisation which was set up in 1946 is the only world body, grouping together about 63 Member Organisations of Farmers from as many as 50 countries from almost all parts of the world, including 22 countries from the developing world. Thus, it has truly become a forum of farmers for international cooperation in the field of agriculture for sharing the gains and experiences for mutual benefit.

I find from the programmes for the General Conference as also for the pre-Conference sessions that major policy issues encompassing almost all sectors of agricultural production and related matters have been discussed. I am glad that the Conference is being held in India at a time when the country is expecting an all-time record in foodgrains production of 150 million tonnes. During the period of more than three decades of planning, a major achievement for India has been the success of its farmers in producing enough food to feed the growing population. Our efforts in achieving higher agricultural production would, no doubt, receive a further boost from the deliberations of this Conference. I need hardly point out that the Indian experience in achieving a break-through in agricultural production will be of great relevance, specially to the countries of the region having similar agro-climatic conditions.

As you are aware, there have been significant increases in global production of several food commodities in the 1980s. Financial difficulties have forced many developing countries to reduce the use of fertiliser and other agricultural inputs. This is an ominous factor which does not portend well for higher agricultural production in future. The need is, therefore, for persistent efforts to keep up and improve the pace of agricultural development through optimum utilisation of the land and water resources and adoption of integrated production systems including crop, livestock, forestry, fisheries etc. and building up a cadre of efficient farm managers. Optimum utilisation of resources—both physical and financial—assumes greater importance, specially for the poorer countries where these are scarce.

It has to be recognised that in the entire agricultural development process, the farmer is the central figure. If his knowledge of technology is upgraded, his needs of inputs and credit are taken care of and he is assured of a remunerative price for his produce, the pace of progress can be greatly stepped up. It is also necessary to achieve more organised and trained participation of women, youth and other sections of rural population in agricultural activities. I hope the Conference has gone into these issues so that it may be possible to formulate an integrated policy for all round global agricultural development. Such an integrated strategy is needed especially for the countries of Africa and Asia where there is deficiency in food availability mainly because of higher rate of population growth in relation to the production of foodgrains.

As a part of the strategy for achieving this growth in agricultural production, the main thrust has been on ensuring adequate and timely supply of agricultural inputs to farmers by mounting production campaigns backed up by research and extension support in advance during the two main cropping seasons. Removal of disparities in the pace of development between different regions as also between different categories of farmers has also been one of the major objectives of the strategy. Programmes like develop-

ment of farming in dryland areas through a watershed approach, specially package programmes for different crops like oilseeds, pulses, etc, distribution of minikits of improved seeds and fertilizers in adequate quantities, support to small and marginal farmers through subsidies and incentives and financial support have led to a faster rate of growth in some of the agricultural low-productivity and low-growth States in the country. The Government policy of protecting the interests of farmers by assuring them remunerative prices for their produce after taking into consideration the costs of inputs which go into the production efforts, has played an important role in motivating the farmers to adopt improved technologies. I would like to mention about another aspect of agriculture, which is of greater relevance to the developing countries. There are various types of farmers—big, medium, small and marginal. There is another important class—that of landless agricultural labour—whose contribution is vital. I feel that due attention is not being paid to this class. I appeal that efforts should be made to pay adequate attention to the welfare of this class.

If a developing country like India with a population of more than 700 million, with low level of capital formation, inadequate infrastructural development and low level of income, can achieve such a spectacular achievement in the field of agriculture through implementation of an integrated development programme, there is no reason why with similar efforts other developing countries cannot achieve rapid growths and surmount the challenge of hunger and malnutrition. There can be no nobler human enterprise than increasing agricultural production and productivity so that no man, woman or child in the world goes to bed hungry. I am sure the coming together of the Agricultural Producers of the World in such Conferences and the outcome of their deliberations will help in not only increasing food surpluses but also in providing physical and economic access to food for those who need it. Mahatma Gandhi once said that to a hungry man God comes in the form of 'bread'. In that light the objectives of this Conference are no less divine.

I thank Dr. Balram Jakhar for inviting me here and enabling me to share my thoughts with you.

Social Welfare

Medical Science for Better Life

I AM VERY glad to be here today and to lay the foundation stone of the Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences. This Institute is rightly named after our Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, who is deeply concerned with the welfare of the people. Provision of medical facilities for all people is accorded high priority in our socio-economic developmental plans and I am sure that this Institute, after completion, will go a long way in meeting the requirements of people not only in this State but also in the neighbouring States.

I am given to understand that Bihar has still to make rapid strides in the field of health compared with all India standards. There is one doctor for every 11,666 of the population in Bihar while the all India average is one doctor for every 3,555 persons. Similarly, Bihar is lagging behind all India average in respect of hospital beds, there being one hospital bed for 2,775 persons in Bihar as compared to all India average of one bed for 1,412 persons. Moreover, there are no adequate facilities for advanced medical treatment in the State which is causing difficulties to the suffering public. They have to go all the way to far off places like Delhi, Chandigarh, Bombay and Vellore for advanced medical treatment incurring heavy expenditure. This Institute, therefore, will go a long way in meeting the medical requirements of this part of the country. I understand that there is no advanced medical institute of excellence between Delhi and Calcutta with convenient facilities to the suffering and needy. An advanced institute of medical sciences called the Sanjay Gandhi Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences is coming up at Lucknow, for which my predecessor laid the foundation stone on December 14, 1980. This Indira Gandhi Institute when completed, along with the Sanjay Gandhi Institute at Lucknow, will be able to meet the specialist and advanced medical needs of the entire Gangetic plain.

The Bihar Government deserves to be congratulated for setting up this Institute, which will undertake post-doctoral teaching and research, with special emphasis on tropical diseases. It is very heartening to know that this Institute's responsibility will include raising the standard of medical and health care at all levels—from primary health centres to medical colleges and district hospitals. Field units in each discipline will have linkage with the Institute. Moreover, the Institute's faculty will organise mobile camps with the staff of other hospitals in the districts. This will enable the State of Bihar to have an integrated health service system. I do hope that the highly qualified doctors who will man the faculty positions in this Institute, will provide leadership and ideas for taking medical service and health care to the remote and neglected areas of the State.

Speech at the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna, February 12, 1983

The development of health and medical services enjoys high priority in our five year plans. We have made considerable progress in the last three decades in terms of rapid increase in the number of beds available. Our advance is spectacular in the field of medical education. However, medical facilities are not yet within the reach of large number of people especially in rural areas. We are attempting in our country to build a truly welfare State ensuring social security to all citizens throughout life's journey—from the cradle to the grave. Provision of medical facilities occupies a key place in any system of social security.

Besides developing advanced and specialist medical institutes like this, which calls for large investments, I feel that extra emphasis on preventive side of medicine, like improving environmental sanitation and teaching of cleanliness etc., will not only yield quick results at less cost but also help in the prevention of many epidemics and other common diseases. We have to remember that health is wealth and this is true for the community as well as for the individual.

I do hope that this Institute would come up speedily and answer the longfelt needs of the people. I thank you for inviting me here today.

Inspiration to City Fathers

I AM GRATEFUL to the civil authorities of Ahmedabad for their kind thought of honouring me with this civic reception. I thank you for the generous words about me in your address. I am deeply touched by your goodwill and affection for me. This is my first visit to your city and to the State of Gujarat as Head of State.

The city of Ahmedabad enjoys a pride of place in our country's history. This is the city which shaped India's freedom struggle in the Gandhian era which produced many great national leaders like Sardar Vallabhai Patel, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Babu Rajendra Prasad, Maulana Azad and many others. I was born in 1916 at Faridkot in present Punjab in a rural family. And it was in the same year that Mahatma Gandhi established his first Ashram, "the Satyagraha Ashram" at Sabarmati, as a training camp for himself and his associates, which became the headquarters for India's non-violent revolution. It was from Sabarmati that Mahatma, accompanied by 78 inmates of the Ashram, undertook the famous and historic Dandi March to the sea on March 12, 1930. It was his stewardship and guidance of the

Ahmedabad Textile Workers' strike during the month of February, 1918 that saw the successful application of Truth and Non-violence for the solution of industrial dispute between the employer and employees. This holds valuable lessons for the trade union movement even today.

I consider my visit to this city today as a pilgrimage, and the honour done to me by the civic authorities as a unique blessing. Ahmedabad with its long and well-established textile industry has grown to claim a place of eminence in the modern industrial map of India. I congratulate the hard working, enterprising and peace loving people of this city. Ahmedabad has already become a hub of industrial activity attracting the attention of the whole nation and demanding respect from the entire country which it well deserves.

Your civic administration is singularly fortunate in having had the services of Sardar Vallabhai Patel who once adorned the office of the President of the Ahmedabad Municipality. I feel heartened to know, Mr. Mayor, that the glorious traditions established by him are continuing to guide and inspire the city fathers. Yours is one of the oldest civic bodies in the country. I feel very happy to know that your civic administration is paying special attention to slum clearance and provision of housing for economically weaker sections of society. I wish success to your endeavours in this direction.

I feel a sense of fulfilment today on coming to this nerve-centre of India's freedom struggle. The country is now engaged in another hard struggle against poverty, hunger, disease and ignorance. Political emancipation is not complete without economic emancipation. It is very gratifying to see the city of Ahmedabad and the State of Gujarat actively engaged in this gigantic task of economic development and uplift of the poor and down-trodden sections of our population. I am sure that Ahmedabad will continue to play leading role in national reconstruction and national integration as it played during the freedom struggle.

I thank you once again for inviting me here and according this unique honour. My best wishes to all citizens of Ahmedabad.

Eradication of Diseases

IT IS NICE to recall that the Asthma, Bronchitis and Lung Cancer Foundation of India was formally inaugurated on March 1, 1973 by my illustrious predecessor the late Shri V. V. Giri, and we have assembled here today after

Speech at the foundation stone laying ceremony of the building of the Asthma, Bronchitis and Lung Cancer Foundation of India, New Delhi, March, 2, 1983

a decade to lay the foundation stone of the Foundation's own buildings. Although a period of 10 years could be considered a rather long one for any organisation to have its own premises yet, I am happy to note that the lack of premises has not deterred the members of this Foundation from undertaking constructive activities for the benefit of those who unfortunately suffer from these diseases. This speaks volumes for the sincerity and untiring efforts of all those connected with the affairs of this Foundation. An institute is not known from its building alone. An institute is best defined as a group of human beings who assemble together for the benefit of mankind. It is heartening to note that there are so many public-spirited persons here who feel that the suffering of another human being is not merely the affair of the person concerned and various authorities but also the responsibility of the society as a whole. When we see this attitude around us, we feel convinced that the power of goodness is working within the human heart and man is on the side of weakness and suffering and will do his best to alleviate it. The contributions of the Foundation in this direction have been commendable.

The main objectives of the Foundation of promoting knowledge and stimulating scientific and practical interest in the fields of Asthma, Bronchitis, Lung Cancer and other allied conditions, are really laudable. The Foundation will be rendering a very useful and lasting service in these areas. The efforts of the Foundation in providing comprehensive care including educational aspects are bound to bring comfort and cure to a very large number of people.

I am told that respiratory ailments not only account for a large number of deaths in the country but also have crippling effect both on the sufferers as well as their families. I also understand that these ailments are often associated with various forms of atmospheric pollution and sometimes with occupations which require a person to work in a dusty and uncongenial atmosphere.

Asthma is a world-wide condition which has afflicted man since time immemorial. I am told that about 10% of the population of the world is suffering from allergic conditions and quite a number among them are suffering from Asthma. In India also, we have a very large number of people suffering from this ailment. Ours is a vast country, with a wide variation in climatic and other living conditions. Therefore, the conditions due to which some suffer from Bronchitis and Asthma may not be uniform in various parts of the country. Thus, there is need for continuous research in identifying specific conditions which either precipitate these ailments or aggravate them. I am confident that the Foundation will pay adequate attention to this aspect of the problem and suggest suitable remedial measures.

I am glad to note that the Foundation has included in its fold the Cancer of the lung also. Cancer is emerging as one of the major health problems of our country and effective measures are needed to combat its incidence. It

is widely believed that smoking tobacco is generally responsible for the lung cancer and other respiratory diseases. It is disturbing to find that the 'Smoking epidemic' threatens to become major source of diseases in the developing countries just as it has long been in the developed ones. It is, therefore, imperative that smoking-control action be incorporated as an integral part of all our health care strategies. Active involvement of doctors in dissuading the young from smoking is needed. I am sure the Foundation will concentrate its efforts on this problem and evolve a range of smoking-control measures.

Mounting pollution in the context of growing environmental imbalance might also be one of the chief contributory factors for the growing incidence of chest diseases. The Government have taken a number of anti-pollution measures and now there is a full-fledged Department of Environment separately in the Central Government. I hope the efforts of all these agencies will go a long way in bringing about a general improvement in the environment.

You are, perhaps, aware that our country is a signatory to the ALMA-ATA Declaration wherein we have undertaken to provide health facilities for all by the year 2000 A.D. To achieve this goal, we have adopted 'Primary Health Care' as a strategy. We want to ensure that all the people in the country get the minimum essential basic health facilities. Since about 80% of our population still live in the rural areas and, of this, a sizeable proportion live in remote and difficult areas, it is our duty to ensure that the facilities for socio-economic development of this segment of the population are provided on priority basis.

It is often said that health is not everything but everything else without health is nothing. There cannot be socio-economic development unless there is improvement in health status of the people. With this end in view, the Government has embarked upon a number of measures to ensure improvement in the health of its people by providing facilities of safe drinking water, sanitation, nutrition and housing. Government have also adopted the revised 20-Point Programme as an approach to development in certain core areas. A number of Central and State Health programmes are being implemented or envisaged to achieve specific targets in the field of medical, public health and family welfare. There is no doubt that institutions like this Foundation can contribute a lot in helping the governmental agencies achieve the goals for betterment of the health of the people.

Before I close, I think it important to bring into focus the question of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. It is acknowledged that almost 100 million people in our country suffer from tuberculosis. Government has included this disease in the 20-Point Programme and are taking various steps to control it. Because of the closeness of this disease to ailments like Asthma, Bronchitis and Lung Cancer, the Foundation may think it worthwhile to devote some efforts to the control and eradication of tuberculosis.

I do hope that when these buildings are ready, the Foundation will be in a position to give of its best to those in need and serve faithfully and well those who come to it for help and relief.

I thank the President and other members of the Foundation for inviting me here today. I wish all success to the Foundation in all its future endeavours.

Welfare of the Handicapped

IT GIVES ME great pleasure to be present here today to honour those serving the cause of children and the disabled. I offer my personal congratulations to the Award Winners for their selfless and dedicated efforts to promote the welfare of the children and the handicapped.

It needs no emphasis that in a vast country like ours with teeming millions of children and handicapped, only Government's efforts for the welfare of these sections of the community would not be adequate. It is necessary for the community to participate fully in the country's efforts, not out of charity, but because it is our responsibility to ensure that the children of today grow into responsible citizens of tomorrow despite their physical disabilities. In this context the dedicated work of the voluntary organisations is commendable.

Our country's abiding interest in the welfare of children is well-known. Our commitment to their welfare is, indeed, enshrined in our Constitution. India is one of the few countries to have adopted a comprehensive National Policy for Children. The National Policy declares children as our supremely important asset whose nurture and development are the responsibility of the Nation. The policy aims at progressively increasing the scope of services for children, covering health, nutrition, education and total development of the child. Such a policy also helps prevention of disability among children by providing adequate nourishment and health care in pre-natal and post-natal stages of the child's life.

While the work done by the voluntary organisations to reach the handicapped is highly commendable, it is generally found that their activities are confined to a few big cities and urban areas and the bulk of the rural population do not get any assistance. Surprisingly the problems of the disabled arise more from the social attitude of the community towards disabled than from the disability itself. Prejudice has been a greater barrier to their normal

living than the loss of mental or physical function. Social and emotional affection of the disabled by the family, by the society and the community is, therefore, the first step in the battle against disabilities. I hope the voluntary organisations apart from bringing about physical and economic succour to these sections of the community, are also working for the removal of the social prejudices.

It is gratifying to note that several distinguished social workers and voluntary organisations have been engaged in this commendable work and they have proved to be shining examples of the spirit of understanding and concern for our children and handicapped brethren. These national awards, I hope, will stimulate others to follow their example and more of our countrymen would come forth to serve the cause of children and the handicapped.

Of course, the primary responsibility of bringing up children, handicapped and disabled, is on the shoulders of parents themselves. Sometimes and at some places, we do come across instances where parents play truant and neglect their children. While there is no law to punish such erring parents, I feel that we should develop a moral force in society to regulate the conduct of parents also towards their children. If parents give up their natural responsibility, who will provide the children with parental affection. The efforts of the Government and voluntary organisations will come next only in importance to parental duty and help in supplementing parental efforts in the development of children as good citizens.

In conclusion, I would earnestly call upon all of you to rededicate yourselves to the cause of the children and the welfare of the disabled.

I thank the Minister of Social Welfare, Shrimati Sheila Kaul for inviting me to this function.

Making Nation Healthy

I AM GLAD to be here today and to associate myself with this function to dedicate the Laboratory building of the Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants at Lucknow. This Institute you know, is a national laboratory of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, the premier organization for scientific and industrial research of the country presided over by our dynamic Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi. In the field of Science and Technology, India has the third largest man-power in the

world. This has become possible because of a chain of national laboratories covering a wide spectrum of science, technology, engineering and bio-medical sciences—set up in the country under the inspiration and guidance of our first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The primary objective of this Institute is the efficient, effective and rational utilization of the medicinal and aromatic plants which fortunately are good in number in our country. The use of medicinal plants particularly in India, with her own ancient civilization, was quite well-known. In fact, India was one of the few centres of civilization in the world where medicinal plants were used on the basis of a well-developed system of medicine, called *Ayurveda*—a system that took care of basic health needs. Ours has also been the home of perfumes and flavours. More than two thousand years ago, this country could boast of a well organized perfumery and flavour industry. In many old historical accounts, we find reference to the flourishing trade we had in the export of spices and exotic commodities like sandalwood, sandal oil, rose water and rose oil.

The development of modern medicine has benefited people in a number of ways. However, we should not forget the fact that indiscriminate use of modern synthetic drugs, though effective in giving quick relief, are not free from causing many side effects. Even in the developed countries in West, there is a growing reluctance to use them and a new urge is growing to take recourse more and more to herbal drugs, as can be witnessed from the amount of research that is being carried out in those countries. It is clear from the reports that in the United States of America alone large amounts are being spent every year on research and development of herbal and other plant-based drugs.

It is our good fortune that our ancient systems of medicine are still alive—*Ayurveda*, *Unani*, *Siddha* etc.—are still in vogue. And it is the duty of our scientists to look into the scientific base of these systems and develop them along modern lines. It is obvious, this task cannot be performed unless adequate research is conducted both on the practice of these systems and the plant-based resources which constitute the raw material for the preparation of drugs and pharmaceuticals to be prescribed by these systems. I am told that this reason had prompted CSIR to set up this Institute so that the base is created for the development of an indigenous medicinal and aromatic plants industry.

I am happy to learn that as a result of the efforts of this Institute and its various centres all over the country, a large number of plants have been introduced as raw materials for medicines, perfumes and flavours. Similarly, I am told that the Institute has also been able to introduce ergot of rye and baladona. Another significant achievement of CIMAP is the promotion of small and cottage industries based on essential oils crops. This has generated considerable employment opportunities and resulted in increased income to a large number of farmers.

These are indeed commendable achievements and I congratulate the Director and his dedicated band of scientists for their excellent work. I am happy to know that the Institute has plans to enter into newer areas of cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants with the objective of making it as pervasive in the country as possible. This is a good idea and I wish them all success. I have only one suggestion to make in this connection. Science and technology are the basis and constitute the pillars on which we propose to erect the superstructure of a modern India. We need technology but I believe it must be people-oriented. In fields such as the cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants a lot of ingenuity of the people is called for. A judicious combination of science and people's own ingenuity, I am sure, would result in the interplay of science and man's ingenuity. This I believe is what the Technology Policy Statement points to when it refers to—"use traditional skills and capabilities, making them commercially competitive". It has also been made clear in the Statement which, because of "the capital-scarce character of a developing economy aims at ensuring that our available natural endowments, especially human resources, are optimally utilized for a continuing increase in the well-being of all sections of our people".

It is very heartening to know that the Institute has also taken up a programme of intensive survey of tribal areas of the country, to find out medicinal plants. I am sure that this will help in devising suitable technology also which can be beneficially transferred to the people living in tribal areas.

It is but fitting that the new laboratory complex of CIMAP is situated at Lucknow, a city that happens to be an old centre of perfumes and flavours as well as medicine. I hope, with its modern facilities the Institute will work for the betterment of the Indian industry concerned with medicinal and aromatic plants and prove beneficial to the people.

I have great pleasure in inaugurating the new Complex and dedicating it to the Nation.

Hands of Compassion

IT IS A matter of great pleasure for me to be associated with this function. I am glad to observe that in recognition of the importance of the Nursing profession to the community at large, National Awards are given

annually to Nurses, Lady Health Visitors and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives who have distinguished themselves in the performance of their duties. The institution of this Award way back in 1971 has been a commendable step in the right direction and I compliment the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for it.

On an occasion like this, the name that comes foremost to one's mind is that of Florence Nightingale who fought with courage and conviction the prevailing prejudices against this profession, which has since come to be recognised as one of the noblest callings. In our own times Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, lost no opportunity of nursing the sick and the suffering. He did not hesitate to nurse even leprosy patients in his Ashram. Throughout our history we have had shining examples of saints and savants who, through love and compassion, undertook to nurse back to health the most down-trodden and neglected members of society. Today, Mother Teresa is a beaconlight bringing hope and cheer to the life of the poorest of the poor. Isn't it a matter of pride and privilege for members of the Nursing profession to be following in the footsteps of such great saviours of humanity?

As is known to all of you, our country has committed itself to provide "Health for All by 2000 A.D." What does this "Health for All" mean? The World Health Assembly referred to it as the attainment by all the people of the world of a level of health that will permit them to lead a socially and economically productive life. This simply means that the level of health of individuals and communities will permit them to fully harness their potential physical and mental energy, and to derive social satisfaction of being able to realize whatever latent intellectual, cultural and spiritual talents they have.

The Primary Health Care concept and making health available for all, assign a special responsibility to the nursing profession. Nursing care has been in existence in the world from the very day the world came into being. Through the ages and with the advancement of medical and scientific technology, the concepts and functions of Nursing have undergone vast changes. There is still much scope to make further changes in the role and functions of the nursing personnel in accordance with the needs of the times. Primary care means passing from health system which for almost a century has magnified curative care requiring a high degrees of technical skill, super-specialization and scientific knowledge to a system of health care which would give priority to simple basic care, care for maintaining life as well as the aid which will prevent illness from worsening—simple curative measures. In other words, all the physical and mental aptitudes of the beneficiaries of care and their families should be mobilized. This means that doctors and nurses should no longer hold the monopoly of knowledge built over centuries. There is need to reconsider the relationships between

professional skills and popular needs. Changes have to be brought about in ideological, sociological, technological areas of educational programmes of all health professionals. The field workers with adequate knowledge of the community have to be initiated into the health care delivery system. Nursing education which, till today, has taken place mostly in the hospitals will have to prepare nurses for primary health care. Nurse educators and Nurse administrators must prepare themselves to meet this challenge posed by the needs for Primary Health Care throughout the length and breadth of our country. Nurses should be prepared to work with the people and not for the people only. This would require reorientation in the pattern of Nursing education and Nursing services.

I am fully confident that the nursing profession can meet this challenge as the profession is known for its dedication and selfless service to humanity. Nursing being a "humane calling" has always been very close to the hearts of the people. A nurse apart from being an aide to the doctor has also an independent role to play. It is the nurse who is with the patients round the clock and brings cheer and light to the sick and suffering with her personalised concern and care. Apart from looking after the patient she can take upon herself the role of educating them in the elementary principles of health, hygiene, and nutrition and also enliven the environments. This combination of high degree of professional skill and human approach will make all the difference in the larger context of social well-being.

I hold the nursing profession in high esteem and have great admiration for its members. A nurse is like a mother in showering affection and it is this motherly instinct in them that makes it a most noble and humane profession. Service with a smile is what it proclaims. I have personal experience of their service when I was in the hospital here in our own country as well as outside as you are all aware. Wherever you go, you find the same spirit of sacrifice and service that distinguishes the nursing profession, which imparts them with a universal outlook and humanitarian feelings. It is with the idea of developing respect for this profession that these awards should be viewed. It is gratifying that social prejudice in our country regarding this profession is gradually disappearing and the profession has come to be accepted even in our villages where Lady Health Visitors and Auxiliary Midwives are rendering a very useful and much needed service, especially to women and children. I am glad that in the National Awards, equal recognition has been given to all these different categories of nursing profession. I congratulate the Awardees for their meritorious services and selfless devotion to duty.

I thank the Minister for inviting me for this function.

Eradication of Leprosy

I AM HAPPY to be with you today when you are considering ways and means of controlling a disease which has been a serious national health problem for centuries. I share your concern for the eradication of leprosy which was dear to the heart of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi.

The interest shown by our esteemed Prime Minister to eradicate this disease by the turn of the century and the inclusion of this subject in the 20-point action programme has generated a great deal of awareness among the general public. Voluntary Organisations like the Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh are best suited to take advantage of the people's enthusiasm to strengthen the National Leprosy Control Programme.

"Health for All by 2000 A.D." will remain an empty slogan if the participation of the people is lacking in the efforts. Therefore, voluntary organisations should prepare the ground by educating the people about the basics of good health. All efforts should be made to eradicate leprosy, a serious disease which can cripple millions of our countrymen if adequate measures are not taken to control and eradicate the same. Our doctors and scientists are doing commendable work in the field of research and we can only hope and pray that the day will not be far off when an effective vaccine is discovered to protect the people from the onslaught of this disease. Finding an effective remedy for leprosy is a challenge for our medical profession and without challenges, there will be no progress in science.

Leprosy is a disease which cannot be handled successfully by doctors alone. The psychological, social and economic problems that leprosy creates for its victims and those of the victims' families have to be tackled by social workers as well. The vital role the voluntary agencies have to play in this field cannot be over emphasised. Health Education and Rehabilitation are the two important areas where voluntary agencies are better suited than the Government Department to produce results. I call upon humanitarian organisations like the Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh to help the leprosy affected persons to earn their living by doing some work and not resort them to begging or living on doles. It is a crime on the part of the society to let the leprosy patients beg for a living. When the National Leprosy Control Commission and the Leprosy Control Board recently set up by the Government dealt mainly with the subject of treatment, I am sure the voluntary organisations would busy themselves with providing all possible humanitarian assistance to the victims of leprosy. They need job training, employment, marketing of what they produce, assistance to avail the facilities granted by the Government etc. . Some of them need a shelter, food and clothing besides medical

aid. Whatever we can give, let us give with love and sympathy which patients crave for.

I see that the Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh has only very limited funds. The Sangh should make serious efforts to augment its funds to do effective service to leprosy patients. I am happy that the Sangh has brought here today so many people from different parts of the country to rededicate themselves to the cause of leprosy, I wish the Sangh all success.

House for the Poor

I FEEL VERY happy to be here today and to inaugurate the tenements for the slum dwellers and down-trodden people. Provision of housing for the weaker sections of the population has been accorded a high priority in our socio-economic development plans. The tenements here are also expected to benefit fishermen families living along the seashore. I congratulate the Tamilnadu Slum Clearance Board who constructed these tenements with financial assistance from the Housing and Urban Development Corporation. In our growing towns and cities, slum clearance has to be taken up on a top priority basis. The existence of slums, if allowed uncleared will become a great menace to the society at large, with many evil consequences. Good housing facilities will contribute for the improvement of environment which will in turn improve health, efficiency and quality of life. There are similar housing schemes being implemented in several parts of the country for the benefit of weaker sections of population in urban as well as rural areas. This is in fact one of the areas deserving high priority in our development plans.

I am told that the Tamilnadu Slum Clearance Board's proposal to construct 792 tenements under the present scheme at Nagooran Thottam is estimated to cost about Rs. 94 lakhs. It is very heartening to know that care has been taken to provide these tenements with essential facilities like water supply, lighting and drainage. I congratulate the State Government for their efforts in this regard and I am sure that with increasing tempo of construction activity, every family would be provided with a house within a foreseeable future.

These tenements are meant for the rehabilitation of members belonging to the weaker sections of our society, including the fishermen community along the seacoast. As you all know, we have a long coast-line along which

Inaugural speech at the tenements for the slum dwellers and fishermen community, Madras
September 17, 1983

live fishermen in large numbers. They are making an immense contribution to the economy through their catch of fish by augmenting domestic availability, as well as providing surplus for exports. The contribution of an individual as such may not be very impressive but collectively speaking they are making a significant contribution. A number of steps have been taken for the welfare of these fishermen. I do hope that the fishermen families who are being provided with these tenements for their living will also be provided with other facilities, enjoy a better quality of life, such as education and health care.

I thank the Tamilnadu Government for inviting me here for inaugurating these tenements.

Medicare and Brain Drain

I AM HAPPY to be here today with all of you and to declare open the Apollo Hospital Complex. This is a new venture first of its kind conceived by eminent Indian doctors working in advanced hospitals in countries like USA and UK and who attained a high standard of excellence in the field of modern and sophisticated medicine. I feel greatly impressed by this venture as it has been envisaged to reverse the brain-drain. Welcoming this project at the time of its conception in 1980, our Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi said that the Apollo Hospital project “is attractive and commendable”, as it “plans to bring back outstanding doctors practising abroad and to construct advanced medical centres to serve all classes of people”. The speedy completion of this project and its inauguration today is convincing proof of the desire of non-resident Indian doctors to come back to India and work here. I am told that there has been a large scale involvement of a number of Indian doctors many of whom have already returned with their skills and expertise.

We have made considerable efforts during the last 30 years to improve health and welfare services in our country. The State has a responsibility to improve public health as one of its primary responsibilities. Health has been accorded with top priority in our socio-economic development plans and heavy investments have been made in the successive five year plans. The main indicators like the decline in the mortality rate from 27 to 14, increase in the life expectancy from 32 to 53 and the decline in the infant mortality from 146 to 129 in the last three decades, are encouraging signs. This has become possible because of massive health infrastructure that came

into existence through planned efforts. Most notable has been the vast increase in facilities available for medical education. At the beginning of First Five Year Plan, there were only 30 medical colleges as against 106 now with an admission capacity of 11,000 per annum. The vast expansion in medical education and large turn-out of trained doctors have enabled many of them to go abroad seeking better opportunities, causing a lot of brain-drain.

The planners have been thinking for a long time about the ways and means of attracting these non-resident Indians, especially trained doctors, scientists, engineers, and technologists and utilise their services for the progress of our country. There is a lot of enthusiasm also among non-resident Indians to plough back their financial resources as well as advanced technical and scientific skills. Perhaps this is the first of such projects by non-resident Indian doctors that has come up in the field of health. I congratulate these doctors who have conceived and constructed this medical complex, where latest advances in medical care in various disciplines are made available under one roof. I hope that this will inspire many other non-resident Indians to come back to their motherland and participate in its progress with all their skills and resources.

There are many diseases and ailments for which advanced and sophisticated treatment is not available within the country. People therefore go to advanced countries for treatment, spending large amounts of valuable foreign exchange. I hope with the establishment of projects of this nature the necessity to go abroad for medical treatment will be reduced if not eliminated. I am told that this is the first modern multi-speciality hospital offering a comprehensive range of sophisticated services under one roof, built to international standards with the presence of eminent doctors of world fame. I am sure that this will become a centre of hope to many ailing people not only in our country but in the neighbouring countries as well. There is a good possibility for this hospital to attract people in need of medical treatment from neighbouring countries and become a successful foreign exchange earner.

I am happy to note that while planning this project provision has been made to make available medical services to poor people with low incomes. I am given to understand that a rural centre has already been set up nearby and that two thousand families of workers living in the vicinity have been adopted for out-patient medical care. This is a step in right direction and I congratulate the hospital authorities for their far-sightedness. I see in this a model for other private hospitals and doctors to emulate this example.

I would like to make a suggestion which I always do whenever I attend functions of this nature. There is a common saying that prevention is better than cure. Everybody knows it. It is better to prevent if it is preventable. I know that in the long run improvements in sanitation, in nutrition and

in overall health will help in preventing diseases, especially common diseases. But in the short-run, knowledge about preventing commonly occurring diseases, if made available to the people, may go a long way in yielding positive results. For instance, take the feeding of children. It has become an important practical step forward, from the Leeds Castle Declaration, in the benefit of mother-feeding. It is increasingly being recognised throughout the world, especially in the developed countries, that mother-feeding is the best for babies since it provides natural nourishment. In the name of modernisation, we are trying to swim against the stream and buy fresh problems. I would like to appeal to medical profession to ponder over these aspects and help in educating the people about the norms of good health.

I thank the Chairman of Apollo Hospitals Enterprise, Dr. Pratap Chandra Reddy, for inviting me to this function and giving me an opportunity to meet you and talk to you.

Prevention of Disability

I AM HAPPY to be here today with you all and to inaugurate the Project 'IMPACT'. I am glad to observe that the Leeds Castle Seminar held in England on November 12, 1981, has not turned out to be an end in itself. I would offer my felicitations to the organisers of this Seminar for taking an important practical step forward from the Leeds Castle Declaration, in the direction of formulating practical programmes of action and policy guidelines for disability prevention for incorporating in national and international health programmes.

When one looks at the staggering number of disabled people in the world today of which about 80% live in developing countries and the frightening prospect that the number of disabled persons would be doubled by the end of the century, the problem of tackling disabilities may appear to defy any possible solution. The consequences of physical and mental disability in terms of the suffering and frustration are tragic both in its nature as well as its magnitude. Disablement among children and the working age group of population results in less of economic activity and productivity and disability among the aged results in physical and psychological suffering. Fortunately, however, modern scientific advances in the field of health and medical sciences all over the world have made available to us low cost practical strategies by the use of which, at appropriate timings and in a planned manner, the problem of disabilities can be tackled and reduced to manageable

proportions in a reasonably short span of time. For example, a vastly expanded programme of immunization of mothers and children, effective steps against malnutrition and better care of pregnant mothers and children can help in reducing the number of disabled persons to a considerable extent. I feel that a more systematic effort is required to be made by all nations, particularly of the developing world, in collaboration with the international organisations working in the sphere of health, to plan and put into action appropriate measures of prevention, focussed particularly on these disabilities against which there exists an appropriate and cost effective potential for control. It is in the fitness of things that many international organisations have joined hands in taking an initiative in this direction.

The Government of India is firmly committed to the cause of the upliftment of the poor and downtrodden sections of society particularly the disabled persons, who happened to be most neglected people of the community and need maximum support and sympathy. We have been able to develop a number of practical and low cost technologies in India for prevention and cure of disabilities of various kinds and these are being applied in the country with considerable success. However, there is need for a well coordinated plan of action and concerted effort to ensure better application of these technologies all over the country.

It is indeed heartening to note that Project 'IMPACT' is being launched on Mahatma Gandhi's birthday. Mahatma Gandhi's services to the cause of the physically handicapped, the lepers, the blind are well known. Gandhi's ideals will provide the necessary strength and encouragement to all those who are involved in this herculean task of providing light to those who cannot see, speech to those who cannot speak or hear and movement to those who are deprived of performing normal human activities.

I do hope that this distinguished gathering of eminent experts from India and abroad who are authorities in various fields of disabilities and most of whom have spent their life-times working in these areas, will be able to evolve concrete plans of action for disability prevention for incorporation in the national health plans in order to secure a progressive reduction in the scale of disabilities prevalent in various countries.

With these few words, I have great pleasure in inaugurating this Seminar of Project 'IMPACT'. May I express the hope that the deliberations of this important Seminar will leave a lasting impact on the problem of disability prevention in the developing countries of the world?

I thank the Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, for inviting me here today and giving me this opportunity.

Welfare of Children

I FEEL VERY happy to be here today and to inaugurate the Children's Library and Toy Museum. This function is of special significance as it is meant for children and their welfare. I consider this as very essential because today's children will be citizens of tomorrow and any investment for their growth and development will be a worthwhile investment for the future of the country. I would like to congratulate the District Council for Child Welfare, Ernakulam for their initiative in setting up this children's library and toy museum. This is a pioneering venture in many respects as it combines a library and a toy museum for the children.

I am told that the District Council for Child Welfare has already implemented many schemes for the benefit of children, like a polio immunisation programme, camps for physically disabled children and a traffic training park. I understand that the Council has decided to start a referral medical service also for the benefit of children in the near future. It is gratifying to note that the proposed library for children will be managed by children themselves. Perhaps this is a unique venture and I wish it all success.

In the formative early years, children derive lot of knowledge from their immediate environment, and this greatly influences and shapes their outlook. The mother is the first teacher of a child. Mothers play a primary role in inspiring children and giving them a moral background. This is evident in the lives of many great saints, thinkers and leaders. In this context, I am reminded of the story how Adi Sankaracharya was brought up by his mother as his father had died during his early childhood. It is quite clear that the knowledge the children acquire during the impressionable age and the memory of their playthings and playmates have a decisive influence in the formation of their character and outlook.

The Library and Toy Museum, I am told, will contain books on arts, science, culture and modern mechanical toys of an educative nature. These are necessary for children to understand the world around them and to develop a taste for science and technology. I feel that more attention needs to be paid for selecting books which will enable the children to develop a moral character. Sports is another area where children can be taught about the benefits from discipline and team spirit. The District Council I am sure will bestow more attention on this aspect also in future. The idea of teaching them traffic rules and regulations etc. through a park is commendable and I do hope that this experiment will be enlarged to other areas also in future. I also hope that in the collection of books for the Library, books on lives

and teachings of our great saints, freedom fighters and nation-builders will be given due preference.

It gives me great pleasure today to inaugurate this Library and Toy Museum for children. I feel such benefits should be made available through mobile vans, to children in the rural areas also. I hope District Council for Child Welfare not only here in Ernakulam but in other districts also will give the matter serious consideration. With these words, I have great pleasure in inaugurating this Children's Library and Toy Museum.

House for All

I AM GLAD to be here this morning and to inaugurate the Housing Scheme of the Kerala State Housing Board for weaker sections of our people. This scheme is a very useful one, and a good feature of the scheme is that it involves the cooperation of voluntary agencies also. I congratulate the Kerala State Housing Board for their efforts in preparing a set of designs suitable for the climate, topography, soil conditions and indigenous materials. This fits into the pattern of integrated rural development scheme that has been envisaged in the Sixth Five Year Plan. Basic necessities of life like shelter, supply of potable water and health care are necessary for all people, whether in rural areas or in urban areas. Priority is given to them in our developmental plans and specific attention has been to low cost housing techniques including indigenous methods available locally for bringing down costs of construction. In this context, the efforts of Kerala State Housing Board in designing houses with low construction costs are laudable. I am told that the present scheme will benefit 2,500 families.

Provision of shelter is next in importance only to food and clothing and we are committed to provide these necessities to all people, especially those below the poverty line. During the past thirty years, firm foundations for economic development have been laid and a sound infra-structure has been developed for self-sustaining economic progress, despite many handicaps. Yet we have to travel very far in achieving social justice, and this must receive utmost priority.

I would like to make a suggestion for consideration. I am told that there is a good flow of funds through remittances from Keralites working in foreign countries, especially in West Asia. Will it not be possible for the Government to channelise part of these funds into projects like this for the

benefit of the weaker sections. This kind of approach, if successful, may substantially remove financial constraints in the implementation of the housing programme for weaker sections. I hope that the Government of Kerala will examine this and draw up practical plans to utilise these remittances.

I thank the Chief Minister of Kerala for inviting me here today for inaugurating the Housing Scheme for weaker sections. I wish the Scheme all success.

Education for the Poor

I AM GLAD to be here today and to lay foundation stone of Shri Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam's building. This premier social and cultural organisation was set up by Guru Narayana as early as in 1903 for promoting education among the backward classes of people. Judged by the results and achievements, the Yogam has established a record of service over the last eighty years.

Kerala has made rich and varied contributions to the cultural heritage of India over the past many centuries. Kerala's history is a continuous story of synthesis, assimilation and fusion of old traditions and new trends in every aspect of human affairs. To say in one word, Kerala is a miniature India in itself.

This has been achieved by the genius of Kerala which has blossomed forth in all its vigour and vitality and helped its people to reach peaks of excellence in all human endeavours. Shri Guru Narayana founded this organisation with the object of promoting education and propagating Shri Narayana Dharma—based on one religion, one God and one mankind. I am told that Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi met Shri Guru Narayana and hailed him for his humanitarian activities.

It gives me great pleasure to know that the Shri Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam has made great contribution over the last eight decades for the welfare of backward classes, through schools, colleges, technical institutions and hospitals. I applaud the Yogam's continuous efforts to create a casteless and a classless society. India is a land of many religions, languages and cultures, yet the running thread is same constituting as the mainstream of our culture. Indian society is undergoing now a socio-economic transformation after centuries of stagnation. We are endeavouring to create a society free from hunger, disease and ignorance. The efforts of the Government need to be supplemented by voluntary agencies. The unity of India

comes above all other considerations and it is the duty of every citizen to strengthen the running thread of the mainstream, the oneness—that is India.

I am told that this building is being constructed by the Yogam as a memorial with an estimated cost of Rs. 70 lakhs. I hope that after completion this building will become a shrine radiating its beneficial rays in all directions for the good of the common people.

With these few words, I thank the President and General Secretary of Shri Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam for inviting me here and giving me an opportunity to meet all of you. I wish the Yogam success in its constructive activities.

Primary Health Care

I AM GLAD to be here today and to associate myself with the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Maulana Azad Medical College. The College, established in 1953, has grown into a full-fledged medical institution with an intake of 180 students every year. Besides teaching, I am happy to note that the college is providing for research in different specialities of the medical science.

This is a suitable occasion for us to recall the services of Maulana Azad to the country and pay homage to him as this institution was named after him. Maulana Saheb was a great nationalist and educationist. In him blossomed the flower of India's composite culture in full. His services to the country before and after independence form a thrilling chapter in the recent history of our country. He was one of the chief architects of free India. Medical-men trained from this college should remember these qualities of Maulana Saheb and try to live up to them. Service to humanity through medicine is a noble profession and I do hope that these ideals will continue to inspire those who join this profession.

India has made considerable progress in the field of health over the last thirty years. The aim of all health programmes is to build a healthy nation, free from disease. Diseases like Malaria and Smallpox have been fought successfully with positive gains while efforts are being stepped up to fight other dreadful diseases like Leprosy and TB. The increase in life expectancy over the last three decades is itself a testimony of the progress.

However laudable these achievements are, there is still a lot to be done to improve health services to people. We have to work hard to achieve "Health for All by 2000 A.D.", for which India is committed.

The country has witnessed in recent years a large expansion not only in medical facilities but in medical education also. At the beginning of First Five Year Plan, there were only 30 medical colleges. Now there are 106 colleges with an admission capacity of 11,000 per year. This quantitative expansion is matched by qualitative improvements also and Indian doctors have earned a good name in many parts of the world. The responsibility is not over by turning out more and more doctors year after year. What is needed is an integrated approach to ensure health care for all the people in urban and rural areas.

Doctors and all other ranks working in the field of health have a great responsibility on their shoulders. People should be educated about the causes of disease and necessary steps needed to prevent them. An awareness among the people should be created. It is often possible to save a life with First Aid treatment. In the same way there are many diseases which are preventable. A knowledge of this type should be taught from the stage of elementary education onwards. This and such other colleges must play their part in this process.

I thank the Principal of the College for inviting me here and giving an opportunity to be with all of you. I wish your college further success in the coming years.

Helping the Handicapped

I AM GLAD to be here today and to associate myself with this function of the Punjab & Sind Bank. I appreciate the Bank's efforts in extending loan facilities to the handicapped persons in order to enable them to earn their livelihood and to stand on their legs. They need not remain condemned to live on charities at the doorsteps of others. It is possible to rehabilitate them with the latest advances in technology. I have seen in many places that handicapped persons can accomplish as much, if not more, as any normal person, in any job or task. In India many programmes have been drawn for the benefit of the handicapped and there are many success stories.

I congratulate the Punjab & Sind Bank for its concern for the welfare of the handicapped persons. Capabilities of the handicapped vary from person to person and it needs extra care to select appropriate vocations which may prove useful and suitable to the handicapped persons. Jobs like book binding, posters, package materials, photography, printing, tailoring, and so on may be more suitable for them generally, though there will be

exceptions. In the developing field of electronics, I see a great scope for the handicapped persons which needs a close study and a well drawn out training programme.

The Punjab & Sind Bank has made satisfactory progress in recent years, with 600 branches spread over mostly in rural areas. It is a matter of joy to know that the Bank is going to open more branches in foreign countries also in the near future.

I appreciate the efforts of the Bank in providing special credit facilities for the agricultural sector especially for the marginal farmers. I am told that these loans have increased by more than 20 times during the last four years.

There are approximately 12,188 villages in Punjab and it is good to know that these villages are served by the Bank's network. The Bank was founded in the holy city of Amritsar, mainly with a view to help the poor farmers. I will have no hesitation in saying that the prosperity of farmers of Punjab is partly due to the developmental efforts of the Bank.

I am sure that the Bank will continue to extend its services to the people in future. The problems of running banks in rural areas differ from those in urban areas. The staff working in the rural areas needs specialised training and total orientation towards the rural areas and people. I congratulate the Bank for its Staff Training College in this regard.

The progress and prosperity of banks depend directly upon the progress and prosperity of the people. They have to play a pioneering role in the development of the whole production apparatus whether in agriculture or industry, I would like to suggest that banks should play a more positive role in the struggle against poverty, by assuming the leadership of the economic development.

I thank the Chairman of the Punjab & Sind Bank for inviting me here today. I wish the Bank all success in future.

Save Each Grain of Food

I HAVE GREAT pleasure in inaugurating the Open Session of the Annual General Meeting of your Association and the National Seminar on 'Pesticides and Human Welfare'. Pesticides have assumed an increasingly important role both for crop protection and health programmes. None the less, necessary care has to be taken to ensure the use of only those pesticides which do not have any harmful effects. While there are adequate procedural

safeguards in this regard, your Association has an important role to play in the promotion of judicious and safe handling of pesticides.

It is true that the use of pesticides in public health programmes and in agriculture has been much debated in recent years at various forums the world over. There cannot be any denial that pesticides by their very nature are both toxic and hazardous. Yet they are recognised all over the world as an integral part of any pest management programme, developed for sustaining crop production. Like the developed countries, India is also fully conscious of the environmental hazards of pesticides. Fortunately the use of pesticides in India started when their ill-effects had already become well publicized. It is, therefore, imperative that the general public be apprised of the correct facts about the importance of needbased use of pesticides and the steps have been taken continuously in our country to safeguard the users and environment against any possible hazards.

Aware of the harmful effects of insecticides, the Government have enacted "The Insecticides Act" to regulate their use in a judicious manner. This has helped in weeding out a fairly large number of highly toxic and hazardous insecticides.

It is necessary to put emphasis on plant protection in the over all strategy of crop production. Increase in area under high yielding and hybrid varieties of crops has necessitated use of higher production inputs viz., fertilizer and water which result in luxuriant growth favourable to insect pest, disease and weed population leading to heavy crop losses. It would not have been possible to sustain high crop yields or to save millions of lives from the ravages of Malaria, Kalaazar, Philaria etc. without the use of persistent and cost-effective pesticides. However, pesticides have to be used very carefully. Efforts are being made through official and non-official channels to educate people in the proper use of these agro-chemicals. In this task the Governmental efforts need to be supplemented by voluntary endeavours like yours to bring about the desired effects.

I feel heartened to learn from the Chairman's speech that your Association has taken a lead in this regard and that it proposes to launch a Dealers' Training Manual today. I would like to congratulate your Association on the successful completing of this elaborate document and I am sure it will go a long way in explaining to the people the proper way of using pesticides for the benefit of all.

Certain issues have been raised by your Chairman in his speech. I am sure these will be considered and examined by the Government. A continuous dialogue between the Government and other concerned parties will help in ensuring proper safeguards against unscrupulous elements. Regarding various suggestions made, I am sure that the Government are fully alive to the situation and shall take appropriate steps to safeguard various interests connected with the manufacture of pesticides.

The Government are always prepared to listen to the general grievances of the pesticides industry and would like to maintain a continuous dialogue with them. It will be in the interest of the country if we all join hands in propagating the safe use of pesticides in maximising production of food and for eradicating diseases to increase human happiness and welfare.

I thank the Pesticides Association of India for inviting me here to inaugurate the Conference. I wish you all success.

Sweet System of Cure

I AM GLAD to be here today and to inaugurate the Fourth All India Homoeopathic Congress. We all know that homoeopathy entered into our country since the very life time of its founder, Dr. Samuel Hahnemann through some European Christian missionaries and philanthropic British officials. It first came into lime-light through the successful treatment of Maharaja Ranjit Singh of Punjab in 1839 which had baffled many prominent physicians of the day available in the country. It was the great homoeopath Dr. Honnigburger who treated the Maharaja Ranjit Singh. The prestige of homoeopath was further enhanced when one of the top ranking allopathic physicians of the day, Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, became converted to the homoeopathic discipline. This even was followed by a good number of qualified allopaths taking to Hahnemannian discipline and several prominent personalities-Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidya Sagar, Gurudev Rabindra Nath Tagore, Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose and Mahatma Gandhi extended their patronage and encouragement to this system of medicine.

However, this system of medicine had all along failed to receive adequate patronage and care from the authorities in the days of foreign rule. It received proper encouragement and fillip during the freedom struggle and many homoeopaths participated in the freedom struggle with distinction. After independence, the system of this medicine along with the hitherto neglected systems like *Ayurveda* and *Unani* became popular due, among other causes, to the support of the Government through the successive five year plans.

I am pleased to know that homoeopathy in all its essential aspects has progressed well in a short span of a few decades, after independence. Now it devolves on the homoeopathic society itself to make the fullest possible utilisation of the basic infrastructure and further develop all the different

aspects of the same for all-round advancement of homoeopathy in our country.

What is needed for this vital task is to develop a sufficiently conscious organisation covering the Homoeopathic Society of India on the same lines as the Indian Medical Association of Allopaths (IMA). One historical fact must be kept in mind in this connection. The IMA initiated its work only with institutionally qualified doctors. But all activities in the field of homoeopathy were initially started mainly by self-trained homoeopaths. The positive elements of these vast forces have played a substantial and active role in all the developments of homoeopathy in our country till today and are still doing so. These vast positive forces cannot by any means be ignored in any of the organising activities even during the present phase, when a good number of officially trained homoeopaths are now available.

I feel very happy that such an effective organisation for the whole of India has been in existence since 1975 and has been working for development and popularisation of homoeopathy in our country.

Homoeopathy is a well integrated system of medicine which can give hope to millions in our country who cannot afford costly allopathic medicines and undergo expensive treatment. A feature of its development in our country is that books on homoeopathy are available to people in almost all of our languages. Many full-fledged homoeopathic medical colleges have come up in many parts of the country and I do hope that one day it will be able to provide medicine for the masses. All of us know that prevention is better than cure. This is more important in the field of public health. I appeal to all of you to spread the knowledge widely and educate the people in simple medicines available for common ailments. We are committed to provide 'Health for all by 2000 A.D.' and various schemes are being formulated to achieve this target. This is a social responsibility and I am sure that all of you will whole-heartedly work for the realisation of our objectives.

I thank the President of the Homoeopathic Medical Association of India for inviting me here and giving me an opportunity to meet all of you and participate in this function.

Love for the Motherland

I AM GLAD to be here amidst you and to inaugurate the Conference of Non-Resident Indians in New Delhi organised by the Foundation for

Inaugural speech at the International Conference of the Non-Resident Indians, New Delhi, January 6, 1984

Critical Choices for India. I am aware of the fact that the Foundation has been active for some time now and the last two Conferences in 1982 and 1983 were organised in Europe. Since this organisation comprises of Indians and persons of Indian origin settled abroad and concerns itself with certain questions facing India, it is in the fitness of things that a Conference should be held here. Sometimes the venue lends a perspective to the questions under discussion.

I am told that there are about 10 million people of Indian origin living outside the geographical boundaries of India. A vast majority of them, about 7 million, left India during the colonial times more than half a century ago, and are now citizens of other countries. However, one can say that there has been a second migration during the last two decades of Indians going mainly to North America, Europe and West Asia. These, roughly 3 million people of whom nearly 2.5 million retain their Indian nationality, consist mainly of professionals like engineers, doctors, scientists and persons versed in different kinds of skills.

It is indeed a worthy endeavour to bring together so many non-resident Indians around this table. Most of the participants who have come from abroad have had successful careers abroad. Many of you have very high professional qualifications and are involved in the development of newer technologies. Many have also been successful in their business enterprises abroad. But, what strikes me is that all of you have a desire to maintain continuing links with your country of origin. You are able to do this having due regard to the duties and obligations to the country of residence. I have noted this during my recent visit to foreign countries. Wherever I went I was delighted to meet the members of Indian community and I was deeply moved by the concern they have in the progress of their motherland as well as the country they live and work in.

There is no mistaking the fact that India today is on the march forward. In spite of serious problems like that of increase in population and a certain paucity of resources, the country has done well and is determined to go ahead. The chronic problem of food shortage has been licked by the Green Revolution. A sound industrial infrastructure has been created. During the last three decades, we have also developed a large pool of technical and skilled manpower and indeed all of you present here are in a sense products of that group. We have also developed managerial capability of a high order in various fields. India's capacity to handle major events is demonstrated by our successful organisation of Asian Games, the Non-Aligned Summit and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, all within the space of one year.

The future task before the nation is to build further on the base that has been created and improve the quality of life. There is little room for complacency though we can be proud of our achievements so far. The country

definitely needs investment as well as transfer of higher technology. We have achieved self-sufficiency in low and middle order technology and have also made some significant scope for participation by non-resident Indians and they can be a suitable channel for effecting transfer of higher technology. I hope your deliberations will address this question.

New situations give rise to new questions and I am aware that you have formulated in the past some suggestions regarding non-resident Indians. Some of them can be looked. India does face many critical choices, but I have no doubt in my mind that we shall overcome the problems that are confronting us. The question is whether the overseas Indians can make a contribution in this process. If they feel they can make a contribution and wish to do so, India will naturally welcome the same. But this must necessarily be done within the framework of the Indian Constitution and Indian laws.

Another important question in my view is one of finding ways and means for the Indians settled abroad of retaining their Indianness, while being a useful member of their countries and societies of adoption. The problem becomes specially acute in the case of children who are either born abroad or who left India while very young. How will the Indian culture and civilisation be transmitted to them? It will be necessary for Indian communities abroad to establish their own institutions, of course compatible with their local surroundings where their off-springs can learn and imbibe the language, the culture, the philosophy, the beliefs and the civilization of the mother country. This is important because I believe this input of Indian culture can enrich and enliven other cultures and bring nearer to realisation the ideals of universal brotherhood. I trust you will address your deliberations to this question as well.

Government are aware of your problems and difficulties. During the last two years several steps have been taken to facilitate the flow of your investment. The Indian Investment Centre and its offices abroad have been providing full assistance to all of you. In fact, non-resident Indian investors can now submit their industrial investment proposals to the overseas offices of the Indian Investment Centre at New York, London, Frankfurt, Tokyo and Dubai. Notwithstanding all these, there could be scope for further simplification. I would expect this Conference to go into all these in depth and make concrete suggestions to the Government for consideration.

I thank the Foundation for Critical Choices for India for inviting me here. I conclude by wishing the Conference all success.

Imbibe Human Compassion

IT GIVES ME great pleasure to be with you all here today at this District Conference of Rotary International District 314 covering this great metropolitan city. I am all the more happy that the gathering here this evening consists of the prominent personages of our country who have made their mark in their respective fields. Also we see here many others who are making significant contribution towards the economic advancement and social upliftment of the nation. I offer you all my heartiest greetings and best wishes for a very fruitful session.

Rotary has become not only a club for entertainment and enjoyment but also an international movement of voluntary service to the society. It is gratifying to see the enormity of human compassion this movement has kindled in the hearts of people living in different parts of the world for the suffering and needy people of other countries, transcending all frontiers—political, religious, social and economic.

While going through the report of your worthy District Governor, Dr. Shirish Sheth, I find that your clubs are engaged in a variety of social and cultural activities ranging from handwriting competitions, animal and wildlife welfare to dental health, vocational guidance and public service at festivals. These are all laudable endeavours to demonstrate solicitude and care for those who deserve human kindness and love. I would implore you all to widen this helping spirit to new areas and fresh fields so that this act of kindness and understanding may benefit larger sections of humanity.

The Rotary movement is a part of the advancement of civilization towards fraternity, cooperation and comradeship between the different peoples inhabiting this planet. The spirit of service to the community through voluntary organisations is praiseworthy. In a developing society the Governmental efforts need to be supplemented by people's efforts. Our Government is going all out to improve the living standard of the people by undertaking several major developmental projects. It is the duty of all of us to see that the benefits of economic development reach all sections of people, especially the needy. It is here that voluntary services need to play a more active role. I am really glad that the Rotarians are devoting themselves to these human and social problems with a spirit of brotherhood. I feel heartened to know that you are helping the authorities in providing services at community festivals and gatherings.

While speaking to you today, I wish to mention about the miserable condition of our brothers and sisters living in slums devoid of many civic

amenities. They are the people who need all your attention and sympathy. It is here that hunger, want, ignorance and disease got entrenched and we must direct our efforts to improve their standard of living. Society must adopt these forsaken persons and bring some cheer to their sunken cheeks. Here is a field with unlimited scope to direct your endeavours towards constructive work. The people living there need to be helped to live worthwhile lives as responsible and useful citizens. It is the moral duty of all those having time and resources to find ways and means to share some of their resources with these deserving people. I feel that every one of us, endowed with wealth, knowledge or power, should develop the habit of sharing with others who are in need. The memory of good deeds of such people survives them and lives long in the minds of people.

Bombay is a great centre of commerce and industry and it behoves the citizens of Bombay to make it a shining example and a model of social service and community welfare. I am sure with the initiatives taken by your well organised institutions a lot can be done to improve the general and social image of this city. I hope your Conference will also devote its energies to find avenues to further the cause of art and culture keeping in view our great heritage in these fields. I am inviting your attention particularly to the need for preserving our values and culture while pursuing modernism. We must try to adopt what is good any where but at the same time not lose sight of the great values and ideals which make our country the home of a rich and ancient civilization.

With these words, I am happy to declare your District Conference open and wish you every success in your deliberations. I thank the Rotary Club for inviting me to this function.

Charitable Hands

I AM GLAD to be here today and to associate myself with the Centenary Celebrations of Shri Vaishnava Sahayak Kapada Market Committee. I am told that this institution, established one hundred years ago as a charitable institution, has rendered yeoman services to the cause of education and social service in recent years. It is very gratifying to know that the Market Committee are preparing to enter into new fields of social service like establishing a maternity home, an assembly hall and an electric crematorium. I congratulate the Vaishnava Sahayak Kapada Market Committee for their



In conversation with Harijans at Bodh Gaya, Bihar

With folk artists of Rajasthan at Mughal Gardens, January 26, 1983





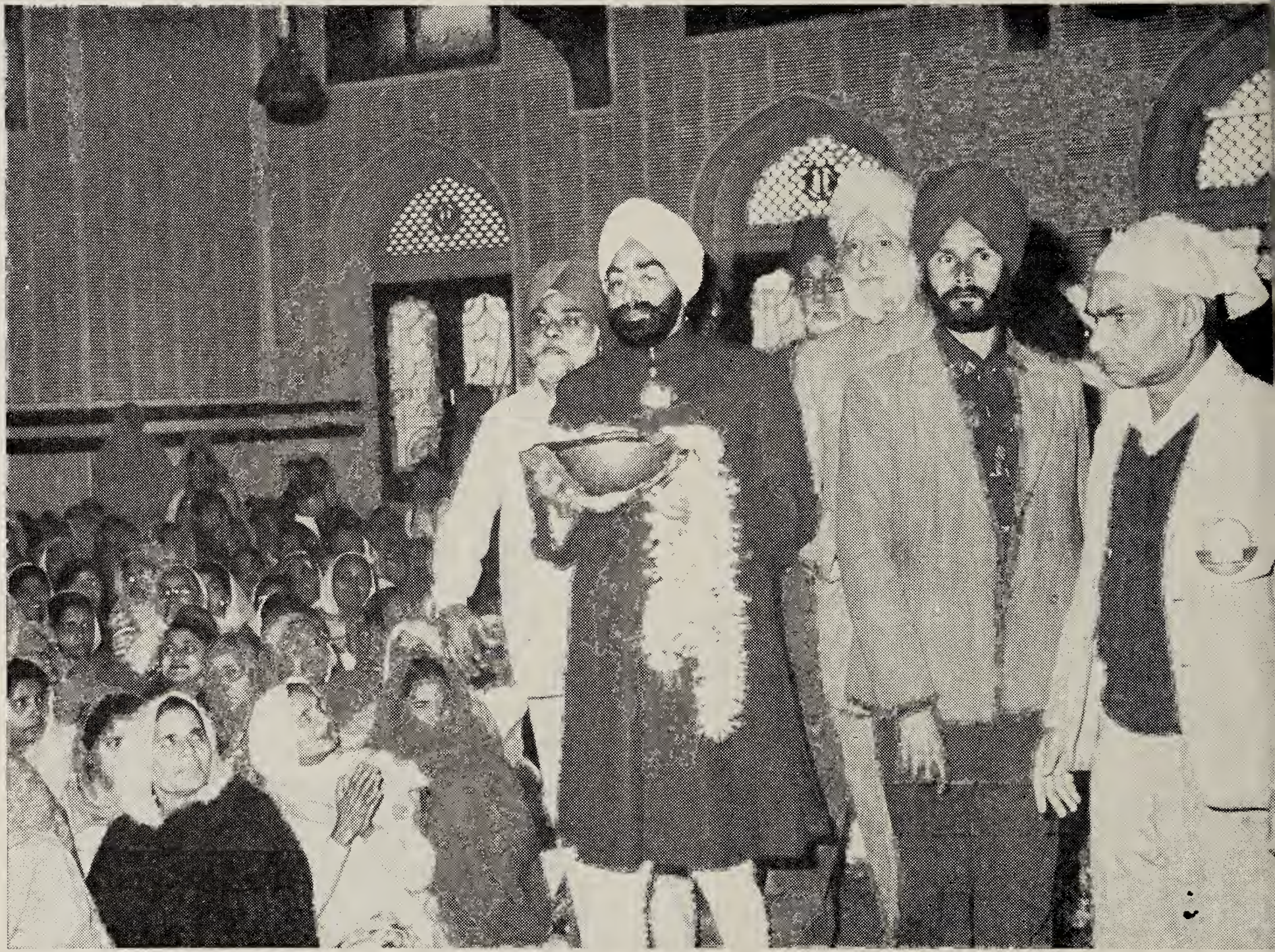
Talking to a group of farmers from Punjab, Rashtrapati Bhavan, January 27, 1983

In traditional headgear of Arunachal Pradesh, New Delhi, January 28, 1983





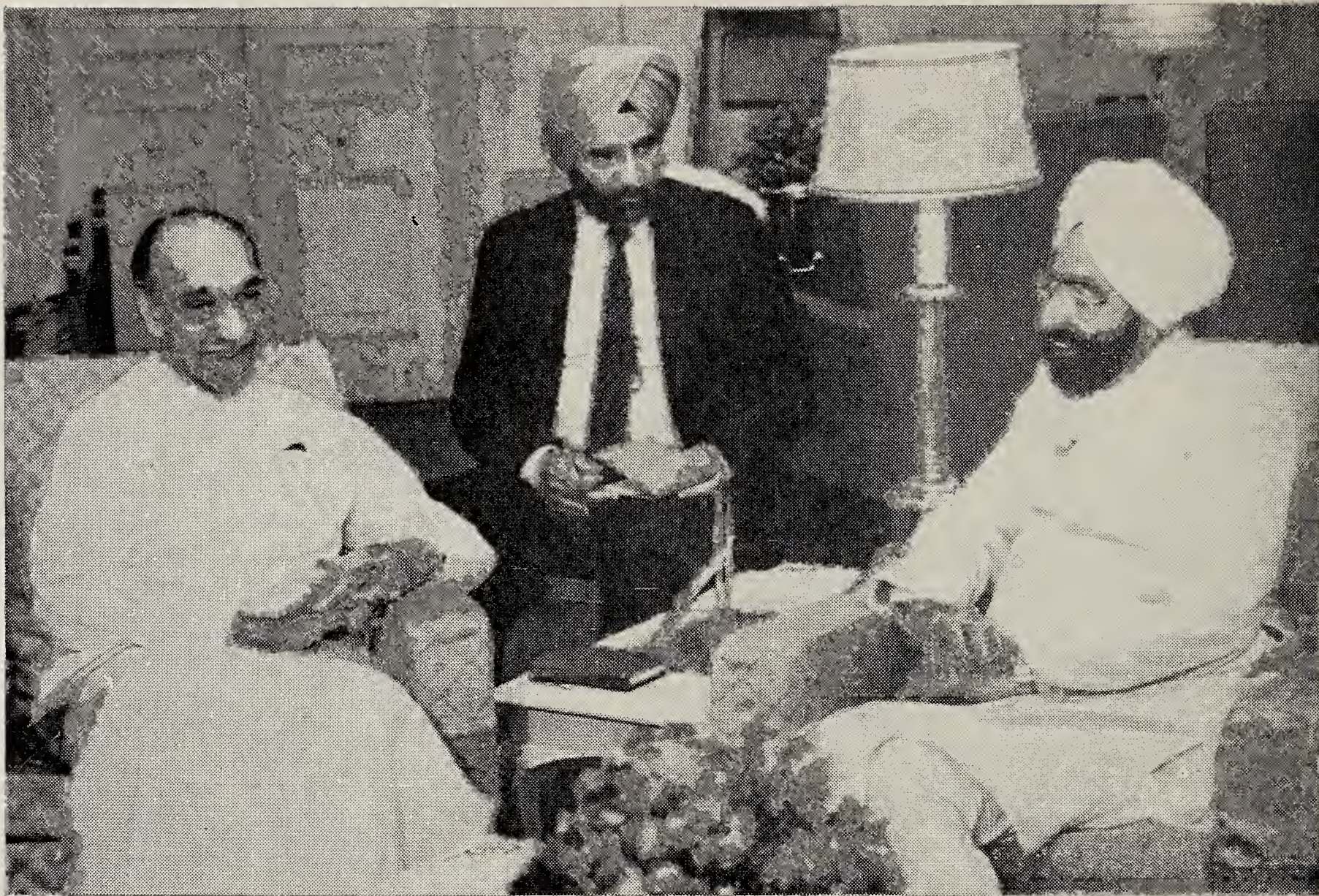
On way to Parliament House to address joint session of Parliament, February 18, 1983



Offered prayers at Sri Hari Mandir Sahib, Patna, February 13, 1983



With H. E. Fidel Castro, Cuban President, who attended NAAM Conference in New Delhi



Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, President of Sri Lanka called on him, March 8, 1983

*Inaugurating First Annual Conference of International Telugu Institute,
Hyderabad, July 17, 1983*





Being honoured by Jagatguru Sankaracharya at Puri, March 18, 1983



With Mr. Yasser Arafat President of PLO, New Delhi, June 7, 1983

voluntary efforts, extending over an unbroken period of past hundred years in running many educational and health institutions for the benefit of people.

Indore occupies a place of pride and importance in our country's long history. Its significance is well known throughout the length and breadth of our country. What is of special interest is the spirit of compassion and service with which Indore's trading community have rendered social service to the people. I have noticed that the range of activities of the Committee have undergone a vast transformation in recent years. From feeding the poor in the beginning, I am given to understand, you have now diversified into other fields also running a Bal Mandir, a School, a College, a Polytechnic Institute and an Ayurvedic Dispensary with a pharmacy. You are moving with the spirit of the times and I hope that the Committee will continue to expand their efforts and activities in future.

There is a tradition of voluntary effort in our country, especially in the field of social service. India's trading community is always to be found in the forefront of social activities. I have noticed in my tours in the country that this noble tradition is being followed and strengthened in all parts of the country. Those who possess anything in excess, like riches, knowledge or power, should share with others in need and distress. These voluntary efforts go a long way in supplementing the efforts of the Government to improve the living standards of people and to abolish poverty.

As you are all aware, we are now waging a struggle against poverty, ignorance, disease and injustice. Economic development of the country will not be complete as long as these age old problems are not solved. We have made considerable progress over the last three decades, since independence, and I am confident that our efforts will increasingly bear fruit in the near future. It is the sacred duty of everyone of us to contribute our mite and to make our country strong and prosperous. I am happy to note that your Market Committee is playing its part well in this regard. My compliments to the leaders and members of the organisation.

With these few words, I thank the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh and the Members of Shri Vaishnava Sahayak Kapada Market Committee for inviting me here.

Child Welfare

I AM GLAD to be here today and to give away the National Awards for Child Welfare. Instituted in 1974 to promote voluntary efforts in the

field of child welfare, I am gratified to note, these Awards have created an awareness in society about the importance and significance of child welfare. I congratulate the award winners this year for their excellence and hope that they will strive further and inspire others in the field to excel.

The national policy in our country has been given shape by leaders who had themselves been devoted to the cause of children. Mahatma Gandhi's love for children is too well known. India's first Prime Minister, late Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, was 'Chacha Nehru' to the country's innumerable children. The Government of India adopted the National Policy for Children in 1974 under the guiding inspiration of the present Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi. The new 20-Point Programme is another milestone in the programme for the country's children and their welfare.

A child's cause is the nation's cause. But we have to recognise that the State alone cannot promote this cause. A child has to be cared for first by its parents and next by the community. On an earlier occasion, I have emphasised the primary role of parents in bringing up their children. We do come across sometimes in society some erring parents, who do not bother at all about their own children. I feel that some suitable steps should be taken to bring round such parents. Next to parents only comes the role of society in child welfare. It is only when community is sensitive to the needs of children that they will be well cared for. Community efforts that involve one and all are a must if we are to do what is required to be done for the nation's children who have been described in the National Policy for Children as the 'Nation's supremely important asset'.

Community efforts are best organised by voluntary organisations. Voluntary bodies themselves are the organisations of local communities and are a part of the local background. They are most acceptable in the community and are thus best qualified to work for the children of the community with the State support in their endeavours.

In this context, I would like to repeat what I have said at many places that there is no substitute in nature for mother's milk, in bringing up children. This has won recently universal recognition and many voluntary agencies have taken up the task of propagating this method of feeding children as the best in nature. Often, it is only in the so-called rich and highly westernised families that children are denied this natural food. Now that this is becoming respectable and recognised as even medically superior, I hope that our own elitist sections of people will revert back to the gifts of nature.

The organisations and individuals who are the recipients of the National Awards for Child Welfare today have achieved an excellence in their work for the cause of the children. We have many voluntary organisations working in every nook and corner of the country. I urge on them to emulate the commendable examples of the recipients of the National Awards for Child

Welfare and further ennoble their endeavours. I wish godspeed to these endeavours.

Lastly, I commend the Government endeavour to recognise voluntary action in child welfare and hope that this will be a factor to promote voluntary action in the country for the cause of the child.

I thank the Minister of Social Welfare, Shrimati Sheila Kaul, for inviting me here and giving me an opportunity to share my thoughts with all of you.

Crusade Against Heart Diseases

I AM HAPPY to be here with all of you today and to inaugurate the World Congress on Coronary Heart Disease. I would like to extend a warm welcome to the delegates coming from foreign countries and wish them an enjoyable stay. As far as my experience goes, I am only a beneficiary of your services, especially those of the heart. You are going to deliberate in this Congress on various problems connected with the coronary heart disease and I hope that this coming together of experts from many parts of the world will prove beneficial to you, to the people and to the medical science as a whole. I congratulate the National Society for Prevention of Heart Disease and Rehabilitation and Cardiological Society of India for sponsoring this World Congress jointly.

The incidence of heart disease is increasing at a fast rate. I used to feel that it is only the aged and old that get affected by the disease. But these days, I find that heart disease is no respecter of age and that even many young people are becoming its victims. As a common man understands, it is generally believed that stresses and strains of modern life cause heart disease. This is a very broad generalization. May be it is constitutional in some cases and due to many other reasons, like food and activities of daily life. However, one can notice an increase in its incidence along with an increase in industrialisation with all its consequences. Take for instance the absence of any physical exercise in the life of many business executives or industrial entrepreneurs. Again the incidence is more in urban conglomerates than in rural areas. This may be again owing to adverse effects of pollution and lack of fresh air.

As a layman, I feel that it is not any one single reason that is responsible for heart disease, but a combination of many factors. To put it in a

simple non-technical language, I tend to feel that it is due to the absence of a balance in life, by balanced life, I mean excessive indulgence in one way or other neglecting other aspects, removed far away from nature.

In India rheumatic heart disease is the commonest heart disease—mostly found among the poor. In the city dwellers coronary artery disease is more common and forms the bulk of patients going to the physicians practising in big cities. Although statistics for the whole country are not available but I understand that up to 30% of patients in various heart clinics in big hospitals, belong to coronary heart disease. If to this is added the related problem of high blood pressure, then upto 50% of attendance in the heart clinics consist of these two diseases.

I am told that the incidence of both coronary disease and high blood pressure has been showing a rise with the advancement in industry and technology of the society. In the advanced industrial country like America, 25% of all deaths in 1905 were due to coronary heart disease or its complications, which rose to 55% by 1955 and at present 70% of all deaths are due to cardio-vascular causes dominated by coronary heart disease. Coronary heart disease has been described as the greatest epidemic mankind is facing now. In India, too, this disease is taking a great toll of life and especially at younger age group—when the victim is in his most productive years.

The reasons for this great rise in this number one killer in most of the industrialized countries are ascribed to the changed life style, over-eating, less of physical exercise and living in an environment of stresses and tensions. There have been many advances in the treatment of this disease including the role of surgery which have helped many patients suffering from the disease. In spite of so many advances in the treatment, it is sad to see that hospitals are still over-crowded with heart patients.

What is then the answer to solve this problem of the epidemic of coronary heart disease? The noted American Cardiologist Paul White used to say “Heart Disease before the age of 80 is our fault and God’s or nature’s will”. By saying this he implied the role of preventive care to reduce the occurrence of coronary heart disease. It is very interesting to note that during the 10 years (between 1970 to 1980) death rate from coronary heart disease in America and some other countries has come down by 20%. This has been reported to be due to :

- a) changes in life style, including more natural diet containing less animal fats, cholesterol, sugar and decrease in cigarette smoking
- b) people taking to more physical exercise like jogging and out door games
- c) improved medical care—specially acute intensive care.

Over and above all these, I must add another phenomenon which I feel might play an important role in preventing coronary heart disease by bringing

about a change in life style. This factor is the awakening of the spiritual awareness on our part specially in the western world, in the last decade or so and in this, Yoga and meditation have been in the forefront. A gradual transformation of consciousness is occurring regarding food habits, living styles and relaxation habits through yogic ways—in the present society where competitive and stressful way of living is being held responsible for increase in the heart diseases, practice of yoga and meditation along with modification in diet habits can certainly go a long way, as preventive measures, to bring down the incidence of heart disease. Mind has a very powerful control on all systems and organs of the body and most important out of all these is the control on heart. Regular practice of yoga and meditation has been found to improve the heart function and control blood pressure. In this way, yogic techniques may play an enormous role in preventive medicine of the future. *Ayurveda* itself deals more with prevention of diseases rather than curing diseases. Once heart disease has occurred, curative treatment is very costly. The so-called 'intensive care units' are in fact proving out to be 'expensive care units'.

My appeal to you, eminent scientists and physicians, therefore is that you should put your efforts in finding out more of the so far unknown coronary risk factors that result in coronary heart disease and then accordingly institute the preventive measures.

Modern man takes pride that he has acquired control over nature and even conquered the nature. Accordingly, he lives in an artificial life of his own creation, forgetting that he is the child of nature. Science and technology are there for us to take advantage from nature, not to disturb the balance in nature. Man must learn to lead a contented and a happy life along with nature, not at the cost of nature. Perhaps, it is this realisation that is now being manifested through world-wide efforts for improving the eco-systems. As India is still in the early stages of industrialisation, it is necessary to keep these vital aspects in view while planning for economic development. I hope you will all agree with me that the incidence could be reduced considerably by improving the environment.

You are all eminent scientists assembled here to deliberate upon this leading killer in the modern world. I am aware of the great strides that have taken place in the world in the field of cardio-vascular diseases both in the realms of investigations and management. I feel happy to be told that there is vast scope for preventive cardiology to play a greater role in combating disease of the heart. I am sure that this gathering of many experts in the field will prove beneficial as it enables all of you to exchange ideas and experiences and to chart out future programme of action. I attach utmost importance to the view that the knowledge so acquired and accumulated should be made available to people through various media. This kind of knowledge will help in preventing the disease itself.

With these few words, I would conclude by thanking the sponsors for inviting me here to this function.

Towards Better Health

I AM HAPPY to be amidst you this morning and feel honoured to formally inaugurate this Autonomous Institute of Cardiology. I am thankful to the Chief Minister of Karnataka and the Patron of this Institute for having invited me to this function.

I appreciate the work of the late Shri Channabasappa, with whose substantial donation of Rs. 4 lakh made in the name of Jayadeva Trust a separate Cardiac Centre has been established here. I am told, the various sophisticated operations, like open heart operations, cardiac catheterisation, implantation of permanent pacemakers etc. have been done successfully at this Institute.

All this seems to be a great leap forward. But still the progress had not been matching the dimension of the problem. The heart diseases are fast increasing and are affecting all age groups and all strata of society. Therefore, there is an urgent need to provide the medical facilities to the patients suffering from the heart diseases.

I am also told that the goal of the Institute is not only to provide diagnostic and treatment facilities but also to develop this Institute into a Research and Training Centre of eminence.

In fact to provide the best and the latest clinical facilities, the Research and Teaching must form an integral part of such a medical centre. I am happy that it has been realised by the patrons of the Institute and they have started post-graduate courses. I hope the experience and the research work conducted in this Institute would be of tremendous value in the field of cardiac diseases.

The decision of the Karnataka Government to declare this Institute as an Autonomous body must be welcomed by all. In the long run the autonomous character of the Institute would help it to grow faster. The autonomous character is also in tune with the objective of the Institute of conducting teaching and research. The academic pursuits flourish in totally free atmosphere. It would also be easier for the Institute to attract and utilise funds from non-government sources for its fuller development. Thus

the services to the patients would be improved both qualitatively and quantitatively.

I cannot resist the temptation to appreciate the resolve of patrons to provide free treatment to the poor. In fact the treatment of heart diseases is at prohibitive cost which the poor cannot afford. It has given currency to the widely prevalent misconceived notion that the heart diseases affect only the affluent people. In fact the poor do also suffer from heart diseases but they do not get treatment according to their requirements because they have no money to spend. The aim of the Institute to provide free treatment to the poor is highly commendable. The organisation would be doing a great service to the nation by extending services to the poor free of cost. Many people suffering from heart diseases have to go abroad for treatment. If we can provide the clinical facilities at home, we would be saving not only the foreign exchange but also the patients from the hazards of long and troublesome journey and stay abroad.

I hope this Cardiac Institute would soon achieve the targets it has set for itself and would emerge as a nodal point for research in heart diseases.

I wish all success to the Management and the Doctors of the Institute in their efforts.

Help Accident Victims

I AM HAPPY to be with you in the Sanjay Gandhi Accidents and Rehabilitation Complex housed in a building belonging to the City Corporation, Bangalore.

Accidents have become common and it is very necessary to render immediate help to those who become victims of accidents, may be road accident, fire, flood, rail, air or in river, lake or sea. For this purpose the Police authorities have to be kept in touch and as soon as any such information is received, the victims are to be attended to promptly and given all facilities of medical treatment and rehabilitation etc.

I appreciate the idea of the Karnataka Government to have this sort of Institute for those who become victims of accidents. Such victims are helpless when they meet such fate as none is there to render them immediate help for medical treatment etc. and in the absence of such help their condition deteriorates. Even sometimes when the immediate medical facilities are not provided, it creates complications and sometimes the victims lose

their lives which otherwise might have been saved. It is, therefore, the need of the hour to have such facilities not only here in Bangalore but in other cities all over the country so that the victims are immediately taken to the nearest Hospitals or Medical Centres for immediate medical aid which is very necessary to save their lives or limbs. The ambulances attached to such units must be equipped with facilities which may render necessary help to the victims on the spot.

I feel that it is not enough to have a Hospital in the heart of city only. Some small units on different directions all over that State must be put up by the sides of roads, railway tracks and lakes, rivers etc. with all sort of communication facilities so that the victims of accidents may be given First Aid treatment immediately after they meet such accidents and are brought to the big Hospital for such treatment which the experts think proper.

It has been the experience that the authorities do not get information about such accidents in time and sometimes they come to know about such a happening when the conditions of such victims go beyond control. If such small units are established, just as police control posts with communication facilities having liaison with the police authorities and also with the hospitals, the lives of many such victims can be saved.

I feel the idea of setting up such hospital is very good, and this is a new venture in the country. I am sure this institution will meet all such requirements which are needed in all such accidental cases.

I wish all success in the efforts of the institute authorities, doctors, and nurses and all other staff who are engaged in this noble cause. I also thank the Chief Minister of Karnataka and the authorities of the institution for inviting me to this function.

Service of Mankind

I AM HAPPY to be here today and to inaugurate the Mahendra Mohan Choudhury Memorial Hospital. Many eminent people have spoken about the great qualities of this worthy son of our motherland. However, I would like to mention some of the chief characteristic features of late Shri M. M. Choudhury, whom I knew intimately when he was Governor of Punjab. It is quite well known that he was a great freedom fighter, a distinguished administrator and a devoted social worker. But what impressed me most was his transparent sincerity and simplicity and his deep concern for the

welfare of the weak and down-trodden sections of population. I found in him a good friend and a wise counsellor offering constructive advice. Above all, to sum up in one word, he was a thorough gentleman liked by one and all. I congratulate the Government of Assam for starting this modern hospital in his memory which I am sure will fulfil a long-felt need and add a new dimension to the health facilities already available in this State. I hope that in course of time, this will become a model institution and set up new traditions of service in the medical field.

A primary objective of planned economic development is to eradicate disease and provide health facilities for all people. Over the last three decades of planning, we have made considerable progress, especially in the creation of health infrastructure and in the expansion of health education in the country. Ours is a more healthy Nation today than what it was at the time of Independence in 1947, looked at from the major indicators of health. We have successfully controlled diseases like Malaria and Smallpox. But it is a matter of fact that there are some imbalances and that the benefits of modern medicine are yet to reach large number of people especially in the rural areas. The thrust of the health programmes now being pursued in the developmental plans is to correct those imbalances and to create a healthy society, free from disease and with adequate health facilities available for all people.

“Health for all by 2000 A.D.” is our committed policy and I am sure that with sustained efforts in the remaining years of this century, we will realise the objective. Health is not only the starting point of all welfare but also a significant yardstick to measure the progress of a country. A significant increase in the average life span—from 27 years in 1947 to 52 years in 1981 speaks volumes by itself. This has been partly due to our success in controlling or containing certain deadly diseases which used to ravage the country in epidemic form and partly on account of expansion in public health delivery system. We have recently evolved our National Health Policy to provide the necessary direction for re-orienting and re-structuring the health services with this long-term perspective. The Policy which has been endorsed by the Parliament envisages a conceptual change from the emphasis on curative services to the preventive and promotive aspects of health care, particularly of the weaker and deprived sections of the society. As a logical corollary to this change, there is going to be more and more emphasis on the preventive, promotive, public health and rehabilitative aspects of health care with provision of primary health care services to reach the population even in the remotest corners. While envisaging health and human development as a vital component of overall integrated socio-economic development and a decentralised system of health care delivery with maximum community and individual participation, the National Health Policy also emphasises the need for ensuring adequate nutrition, safe drinking water-supply and improved

sanitation. Action has already been initiated to translate these objectives into reality. Similarly, the Family Welfare Programme has been significantly stepped up over the years.

In the ultimate analysis the effective delivery of health and family welfare services would depend very largely on the nature of medical education and training and the orientation towards community services. The medical colleges would have a crucial role to play in this respect. It is necessary to take note of the national needs and priorities and restructure the educational and training programme of all categories of health personnel so that such needs could be met. Availability of medical facilities is as important as availability of knowledge to the people about the ways of prevention. It is with this in view that it was proposed to in the Plan to include health education in the curriculum of school education as well as other informal systems of education.

I am well aware of the special problems facing your State in particular and the whole North-Eastern Region in general. I feel gratified to know that these problems are being attended to. I am fully confident that this M. M. Choudhury Memorial Hospital will continue to develop further and become a model for this entire region.

With these few words, I thank the Government of Assam for inviting me to inaugurate M. M. Choudhury Memorial Hospital.

Unique Noble Cause

I AM GLAD to be in your midst today and to associate myself with the Centenary Celebrations of the St. Stephen's Hospital.

Delhi, the capital of the country, has grown into a gigantic complex, bristling with enormous problems—social, economic and political. The city has seen many ups and downs giving a severe jolt to its culture and values. Close upon this came the partition of the country, which resulted in an enormous influx of uprooted humanity from across the border and the refugee settlements increased manifold the slum areas of this city and its suburbs, with associated sanitary and other health problems. There was not enough employment to go round, and the resultant poverty, nervous and emotional stress and other factors associated with the very extensive industrial activities in and around the city and the insanitary conditions, particularly in the

extensive slum areas gave rise to a complexity of problems, of which the medical is as challenging as any other.

To meet this challenging problem, the existing institutions have been upgraded and strengthened, and a few new hospitals have been set up in different regions of the city. The Governmental effort is further strengthened by the medical care rendered by the hospitals/dispensaries run by the voluntary organisations.

St. Stephen's Hospital is one such hospital which characterises the example of the noble fruits of the labour of love, service and sacrifice in the field of medicare rendered to all strata of society. The growth of this institution from a very humble beginning—a century ago—born out of a single person's concern and compassion for those in need of medical care and the intense desire to help them, is an inspiration to one and all. Today's function is a worthy tribute from those who have assembled here in such large numbers to provide a cultural background in the best secular traditions of our country to the inauguration of a year long centenary celebrations of St. Stephen's Hospital. I am happy to be with you on this festive occasion.

Health care of the people should be a comprehensive programme which takes into account physical, social and family environment of the individual as well as of the community for prevention and treatment of diseases followed by necessary rehabilitation activities for restoration of health. In a developing country like India, plans for improving the health services to ensure maintenance of health of the people have been regarded as an integral part of the overall development programme. Health care has, therefore, assumed vital importance in which the Government, the people and voluntary organisations need to cooperate and work together for the public good. North Delhi, the ancient part of the city, is a very congested area where hospital facilities are still inadequate. St. Stephen's Hospital has earned a well deserved reputation for excellent patient care over the last one hundred years. It has a more useful role to play in the years to come. It is heartening to know that the plans drawn up for the future have provided in an ample measure to meet the growing needs of the public.

One notable feature of the Hospital which impressed me most is its policy to keep its doors open to the poor patients and to provide them, free of cost, the same quality care as to the rich patients. I note that a number of free care programmes for the benefit of the public are also being organized as part of the centenary celebration—each programme being sponsored by a generous donor. I congratulate such donors who are imbued with service to humanity.

It is a great pleasure to learn that this Hospital has a Patient's Welfare Society which provides scope to the cured patients of the Hospital who so wish to render voluntary services to the patients of the Hospital. It is a good example for others to follow.

I wish that this noble institution which has been serving the suffering humanity for a century will grow in stature to serve the mankind better in future. With these few words, I thank the management of St. Stephen's Hospital for inviting me here to this function.

Service With a Smile

IT GIVES ME great pleasure to be associated with this function. I compliment the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for instituting these awards to honour the profession which is dedicated to the service of mankind since this is one way of recognising the nobility of the nursing profession.

The service which the nurses provide to the suffering humanity with courage, conviction and dedication is something unique. It is not an easy task to serve with a smile and bring cheer to the patients and their families in their hour of distress. The profession is of service and of giving. On an occasion like this, one is naturally reminded of Florence Nightingale, who brought shining glory to the profession of nursing. The Lady with the Lamp, as she was known, created both history and legend as she went from patient to patient, cheering them up and alleviating their feeling. That is why 12th of May which is the birthday of Florence Nightingale is celebrated as the Nurses' Day.

As you are all aware, our country is committed to attaining the goal of "Health for all by the year 2000 A.D." through the universal provision of comprehensive primary health care services. The attainment of this goal requires a thorough over-hauling of the existing approaches to the education and training of medical and health personnel and their re-organisation. It is not enough to change the course contents; what we have to aim at is a change in behaviour and attitude. Health Information education should form part and parcel of one's life. Every effort should be made to secure the complete integration of all plans for health and human development with the overall national socio-economic development process specially in the more closely health related sectors like agriculture and food production, rural development, education and social welfare, water supply and sanitation. As you know, "man is a social animal". Drugs/pills/hospitals alone cannot bring health. It is the coordinated and cooperated and cooperative endeavour of each one of you with constant collaboration with community. We should never undermine the vast knowledge and effectiveness that exist in the day-

to-day home remedies. Nurses and health professionals, all have to know about these to render effective primary health care. They have to understand why certain practices exist and what are the scientific principles behind certain practices related to health followed in the community. Each Health worker, be whether a nurse, a midwife or a doctor should be one with the Family/Community where he or she has to work. A patient sick in the hospital should be treated as a member of the hospital family and his ability to co-operate in his own recovery and participation of the family should be fully utilised. This will bring in community involvement and partnership in health care delivery system.

There are certain vulnerable groups which need special care, i.e. mothers, children and school age group. The latter are our future citizens. Adequate care of the mother during pregnancy/labour and care of the new born child during infancy and pre-school age and health habits inculcated in the homes, schools and colleges will enable us to attain our goal of 'Health for all by 2000 A.D.' The nurses and nursing profession can take upon themselves this task of educating these groups and create healthy and happy families and communities for future.

I congratulate the awardees for their meritorious services and selfless devotion to duty.

I thank the Minister for inviting me to this function.

Naturopathy for Health Care

I AM HAPPY to be here and to associate myself with the inauguration of the All India Nature Cure Conference. Naturopathy, as a system of health care, is yet to gain popularity in the world. In our country, it occupies a place of significance. The constructive programme of Mahatma Gandhi included Nature Cure as an integral item during the days of our freedom struggle. After independence, Naturopathy has been recognised as one of our traditional systems by the Central Government and many State Governments.

I find that there are many nature cure hospitals in different parts of the country, run by Government and by private voluntary organisations. I would like to recall in this context the setting up of "Gandhi Nature Cure Centre" in Phillour in Ropar District, when I was the Chief Minister of Punjab. There is plenty of scope for the development of naturopathy in our country.

First let us understand what is meant by Nature Cure. The subject to be discussed in the Conference is Nature Cure, which is the only system of therapeutics, which believes that right food is the best medicine. Hippocrates of Greece said long ago, "let your food be your medicine and medicine be your food." This is an important dictum for all of us. In nature cure, we unbalance the diet in all disease conditions so that there is very little or nothing of starch, protein and fat in the meals. Over-eating is considered as bad for health. It is said that only one third of what we eat nourishes us while the remaining two-thirds goes waste. I would like to quote an apt saying "Many dishes, many diseases". Last but not the least, "Eating for pleasure alone is eating for pain ultimately. But eating without pleasure is eating without life".

Nature cure or naturopathy refers generally to the treatment of disease by diet, exercise and so on, the aim being to aid natural means of recovery. Exercise is a master conditioner for the healthy and a major therapy for the ill. Many states of ill health can be prevented by a judicious practice of exercise; some of the ailments can even be cured by physical exercises. Nature's principle is 'Use or Lose'. We lose the efficiency of our muscles if we stop using them. Nature cure believes in going to the root of all troubles. Many naturopaths have cured hundreds of cases even by fasting. In a way, this means following a course of life based on self-discipline. This obviously is based on the principle in nature that any imbalance in nature causes climatic disturbances. Similar is the case with regard to human beings also. They become prone to disease, whenever imbalance occurs in life styles. The excellence of naturopathy consists in the fact that it aims at prevention of disease itself and developing immunity against disease. This imposes on us a responsibility to lead a life of self-discipline.

Naturopathy needs to be popularised more and knowledge about it should be made available to all people in their own languages. As you all know, we as a nation are committed to a policy of "Health for all by 2000 A.D.". A large majority of our people live in rural areas and I am confident that naturopathy will help in achieving the objective of providing health facilities on a large scale especially in rural areas. Increasing urbanisation with the stresses and strains of life in crowded cities is giving rise to many problems of health. I feel that nature cure clinics in rural areas should be able to serve as holiday homes for the urban people to improve their health and efficiency. This will make nature cure clinics more popular also.

I am impressed by the good work being done by you. I am aware of the problems you are facing and hope that the authorities will do their best to assist you in solving them.

With these few words, I thank Shrimati Nirmala Deshpande for inviting me here to this function.

Education

Eternal Values of Writing

I AM GLAD to be here amidst you all today and to give away the Sanskriti Awards. As you are all aware, these awards, instituted by the Sanskriti Pratishthan, are meant to accord honour and recognition to young persons with outstanding promise and potential in the fields of creative writing, journalism, fine arts, performing arts, and social and cultural achievements. I would like to congratulate the award winners on their achievements in respective fields. The Sanskriti Pratishthan is rendering valuable service to the country through these awards by promoting the cultivation of creative arts and encouraging the pursuit of independent thinking.

India is a vast country with many diversities but there is a deep underlying fundamental cultural unity, which transcends the many diversities. This unity in diversity is the chief characteristic of our culture handed over to us by our ancestors. This is our proud and sacred heritage which provides the inner cohesion among people living in this country. This cultural unity from times immemorial is based on eternal values like truth, love, compassion, toleration and sacrifice. These values have permeated the whole of our existence. Every generation has contributed its own to strengthen these bonds of unity inspired by the great ideal of oneness of all.

A continuous stream of great thinkers from remote times to recent past, like Valmiki, Vyasa, Buddha, Adi Sankaracharya, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Guru Nanak Devji, Acharya Tulsi Das, Swami Vivekananda and Mahatma Gandhi has influenced and strengthened the thought of this country. It is these eternal values that supplied the motive force for our music, dance, sculpture, art, architecture, and so on. This underlying thread of unity needs to be made more strong and enduring. It is our bounden duty to further strengthen these bonds and promote national integration. It is a fact of history that it was those values that shaped our freedom struggle and provided the inspiration to our people to build a Free India on the basis of socialism, secularism and democracy. The creative thinkers, particularly in the younger generation such as those who are being honoured today by these awards can contribute a great deal to the strengthening of these principles.

There are many unhappy trends that are trying to disturb the process of national unity by sowing seeds of disruption. The creative genius of young talented people can focus people's attention on the right priorities in national development and create a congenial climate for national integration. Voluntary organisations like the Sanskriti Pratishthan are in a position to assist in this process. I congratulate the organisers of the Pratishthan on their

noble efforts. What gives me special pleasure is that the Sanskriti awards are meant to encourage and inspire the young and emerging. I hope that the scope of Sanskriti Pratishthan's work will widen in course of time and that its example will be emulated by voluntary organisations in other States and provide encouragement and inspiration to the youth of the country.

I once again congratulate the award winners and wish them continued success in their creative endeavours. I thank Dr. Singhviji for inviting me here for this function.

Preserving Indian Culture

I AM GLAD to be here today. This is my first visit to the headquarters of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. But I am well acquainted with the activities of the Bhavan since its birth. This is a gift to the nation by Kulapati Munshiji who conceived this to strengthen the national outlook and to spread the message of India's tradition based on eternal values like truth, toleration, peace and goodwill.

As you are all aware, India's unity is based on age-old cultural ties. Unity in diversity is the characteristic feature of our heritage. It gives me immense pleasure to know that Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan is engaged in activities which help to preserve the good values of our tradition and thereby strengthen the bonds of national unity. The Bhavan was founded a decade before the dawn of national independence by the far-sighted Kulapati Munshi and his like-minded colleagues with a view to holding aloft the great ideals this nation has inherited from the past. The rich and composite culture of our country has grown over the ages, with contributions from people living in various parts of the country. Fortunately for us in India, our culture has stood the test of time. While the people belonging to various parts of the country have their own distinct customs, manners and linguistic and other attainments, they altogether, contribute to a common culture of which every Indian is proud. The recent Asiad gave an opportunity for us to demonstrate to the world the variegated art forms evolved in various States, while sportsmen from all these States competed in the Asiad, once again underscoring our national unity.

I am glad to learn that in another five years, the Bhavan will be celebrating its golden jubilee. It is a measure of the Bhavan's inner vitality that in the years after the passing away of its great founder, Kulapati Munshi, the institution, far from shrinking as happens to many institutions.

has gone on expanding even to the extent of opening Centres in other countries like Britain and USA. Such Centres help to spread the knowledge of Indian history and tradition to the people of these countries and present a correct image of Indian culture and way of life.

In India, we have always valued the teachings of our great seers, saints and gurus. In recent centuries, India has given birth to great saints and thinkers like Guru Nanak, Sant Kabir, Swami Dayananda Saraswati, Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Swami Vivekananda, Shirdi Sai Baba, Ramana Maharshi, Mahatma Gandhi, Lokamanya Tilak, Sri Aurobindo and others. Indeed, our freedom movement drew its inspiration and guidance from their teachings.

We are wedded to secularism in the positive sense and not in the atheistic sense of negation. Secularism does not mean to us godlessness but equal respect for all religions—*Sarva Dharma Samabhava*—for which Mahatma Gandhi lived and died.

I would like to pay my tributes to Kulapati Munshi and his colleagues and all those who are selflessly carrying forward the Bhavan's work with dedication. I cannot do better than quote the great architect and builder of modern India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru :

“The Bhavan has established itself in the hearts of the people and it is filling a vacuum which exists in Indian life. The Bhavan has served Indian culture with ability and perseverance and has made truly remarkable progress in many aspects of Indian culture. Bhavan's past record gives assurance that the progress will continue in the future also and the Bhavan will create fresh records in the service of India's culture. The Bhavan is a very fine institution which deserves every encouragement and support.”

May the Bhavan continue to do its valuable work for strengthening the cultural values and national integrity of India.

I thank the Chairman for inviting me here today and enabling me to visit Bhavan's headquarters.

A Noble Example

I AM GLAD to be here today to share with you this pleasant function of inauguration of the centenary celebrations of Thakur Ranmat Singh College. I understand that as early as 1869, a small public school was started by Maharaja Raghuraj Singh Ju Deo and this was upgraded by Maharaja

Venkat Raman Singh Ju Deo to be a high School just 100 years ago. Years later, in 1935, this high school was made into a college—thanks to the initiative of Maharaja Gulab Singh. The college subsequently developed facilities even for post-graduate teaching in arts and science. Thus, the institution has developed in different phases, and it has made its mark by virtue of its dedicated service to the cause of education in this—the central region of the country.

On this occasion one can look back to the past with a sense of achievement and also look ahead into the future with greater hopes. We may also recall with gratitude the interest and initiative shown by Maharaja Raghuraj Singh Ju Deo, his successor Maharaja Venkat Raman Singh Ju Deo and at a later stage by Maharaja Gulab Singh in the establishment and development of this institution firstly as a small public school, then as a Durbar high school and then a degree college. They were among those enlightened rulers of princely states in pre-independent India who made significant contributions to the social and cultural development of the country and enriched our heritage of scholarship, literature and the fine arts. I understand that the college was given its present name after the valiant freedom fighter Thakur Ranmat Singh who had given his life in the struggle against alien rule way back in 1857. Let the ideals of patriotism and sacrifice, of which Thakur Ranmat Singh was a shining example, continue to inspire the generations of students who will pass through this college in the years to come.

Rewa is endowed with nature's bounty in the form of enormous forest wealth, natural resources and all that is beautiful in nature—streams, waterfalls and the mountain ranges. This place inspired many a religious poet and saint—Tulsidas, Kabir, Abdul Rahim Khankhana and the music wizard Tansen. Indeed, the place seems ideally located to inspire and guide generations of our people to higher levels of intellectual, spiritual and aesthetic attainment.

The period of establishment of this institution marks an important stage in the development of our social economic and cultural history. The country had by then begun to experience the impact of industrialisation. Railways had been introduced. Three major universities had started functioning in the country. Soon the Indian National Congress was born, which spearheaded our national freedom movement. This college has lived through all that momentous period and made its own contribution to the process of national awakening.

The purpose of education is to produce men and women of character, understanding and leadership. We expect that from our educational institutions will come men and women equipped with skills and competence to guide and shape our development. It is our educational system that should provide us with men and women endowed with a spirit of service to the

community. If our institutions live up to these ideals, we could feel justifiably proud of their contributions to the nation's growth and progress.

Education for a person is like an ornament which enriches his personality. If an educated person does not utilise the education he has obtained, his position becomes like that of a scentless and fruitless flower. Every body, therefore, should make use of his education for the cause of the betterment of the society and the progress of the country. Learned persons need not run after the books for consultation each and every time. Knowledge is what one has in his mind and not what is confined to the books and in the almirah. There goes a Persian saying "*Ilm Dar Seena Na Dar Safeena*" which means knowledge remains in the mind and not in the boxes.

Many questions are being raised now-a-days about the directions of our educational development. It is said that our educational system has remained much the same as designed by the British Raj to meet their colonial needs. It is suggested that the main thrust and focus of education even today is to acquire a qualification, or a degree, that would entitle one to get one job or another. In this process, it is often argued that examinations dominate the educational scene and eventually the validity of the examination system itself is increasingly questioned.

An institution is not merely the buildings or its classrooms ; it is a body of people, the teachers and the students, who make the institution a living and dynamic entity. It is the interaction between the teachers and the students that shapes ideals and transmits them. Learning is a process that never ends. One learns all one's life. The sources of knowledge are everywhere : one learns not only from teachers, but also from all people, one meets in life. Besides, nature itself provides unlimited source of knowledge. All that is required is the will to learn and the humility to admit that knowledge is everywhere.

The primary objective of any educational system, therefore, should be to stimulate a learning process in which everyone is learning all the time. This learning process has necessarily to be related to the life and environment of the learner. In the development of this learning process, we can press into service all the modern aids and tools that science and technology have placed at our disposal. They help us to develop in us skills and competences that we can utilize for productive and gainful purposes. It is this application of our skill for productive purposes that adds to a nation's wealth. It is this broad direction in which we should endeavour to develop our educational system.

From a centre of traditional scholarship and culture, Rewa has grown into a centre of modern education and development. It is this process of transition, which combines the best of traditions and modernity, that we need to evolve for our advancement. Your college has played a crucial role in pioneering this process. I do hope that in the years to come you will

continue to make still higher contributions to the progress and prosperity of our nation. On this occasion, my best wishes are with you. May this college, in its centenary year, rededicate itself, in keeping with the noble traditions set by its founders, to the service of the motherland, by maintaining high standards of teaching and by moulding the character of generations of students in the years to come.

Mine of Knowledge

I AM GLAD to be here today with all of you and to inaugurate the new building to house Khuda Baksh Public Library. This oriental Library with many old and rare manuscripts of historical importance and original paintings of exquisite beauty is well known throughout the world of scholarship. This is a treasure house which contains a large collection of Arabic and Persian manuscripts, not found even in the Arabic world. It is heartening to know that this Library has been attracting reputed scholars and researchers from almost all countries in the world.

I would like to pay homage to Mohammad Baksh and Khuda Baksh who accumulated this vast treasure of knowledge and handed it over to the public. This collection proudly acknowledges that Islam integrated in myriad ways with the culture of Indian soil, enriching and producing an indivisible composite culture. Very appropriately, this library was declared as an Institution of National importance by an Act of Parliament as long ago as in 1969.

I am told that this Library is providing research material to scholars from India and abroad, through reference service in reply to the academic queries as well as by providing copies of microfilms. It is very good to know that rare manuscripts of other major Libraries like those of Aligarh, Rampur and Phulwarisharif have been micro-filmed and some of the rare books are being reproduced. What gives me more pleasure is the fact that the Library is bringing out a quarterly journal in order to make available the rich material to the outer world. I am told that this Library is being developed further into a full-fledged and self-contained centre of research.

Libraries contain the accumulated thoughts of centuries and provide us with a valuable link with the past. It is not enough to merely assemble knowledge. It is even more necessary to see that knowledge is passed on to future generations. They are centres of knowledge and light, meant for the whole of mankind. This Library is doing a duty worthy of its founders

and worthy of its reputation. The benefits of this vast collection of rare manuscripts in this Library should reach as large a number of people as possible in this country and I feel that translation into all other languages in the country would go a long way in spreading the knowledge. I hope the authorities will consider the suggestion.

I feel immensely happy to inaugurate the new building of this Library.

Uphold Glorious Traditions

I AM GLAD to be here today and associate myself with the Centenary Celebrations of Gujarat College. Starting in a small way in 1860, it became a regular college in 1879 when it secured affiliation with the university of Bombay. At that stage the College taught only Arts subjects. In 1912, science classes were added, making the college a full fledged Arts and Science College. We must recall with gratitude the generosity of Shri Chinubhai Madhavlal whose donation of ten lakhs of rupees in 1912 helped to make this possible.

Since then the College has enjoyed the position of the premier College in Gujarat. It has the distinction of having many distinguished and eminent persons on its roll of old students, many of whom have played a leading role in the country's public life, such as Justice L. A. Shah, Shri Anandshankar Dhruva, Sheth Ambalal Sarabhai, Sheth Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Shri N. C. Mehta, Shri Kavi Nandlal, Dr. Vikram Sarabhai and others. This College. I am glad to know, has also earned the credit of producing the first two lady graduates of Gujarat, thus initiating the progress of higher education for women.

The introduction of Commerce Faculty in 1981 has equipped the College in all disciplines. Arts, Sciences and Commerce, necessary for imparting to young students the knowledge and skills required for meeting the challenging responsibilities of modern life. The College can justifiably be proud of its progress over the hundred years of its existence. Its student community was the earliest instrument shaped and moulded by Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel as disciplined soldiers in the struggle for country's freedom. The immense contribution of students of this College for the freedom movement should be remembered by all of us. The role played by students of this College at the time of the arrival of the Simon Commission in October 1928 forms a glorious chapter in the history of our national movement.

Responding spontaneously to the call of the national leaders, the students of this college lighted the torch of our freedom struggle which spread throughout the length and breadth of our vast country with the blessings of Mahatma and under the guidance of iron-willed Sardar Patel. Can any one forget the martyrdom of Shaheed Veer Kinariwala, a student of this College who was shot at point-blank range in the College compound on August 9, 1942. He fell down with the tri-colour flag aloft in his hand. Such were the glorious traditions of this College and such were the ideals that motivated the youth of this country. It is because of sacrifices of brave freedom-fighters like Shaheed Kinariwala that we could achieve our national independence.

This College had responded admirably in the past to the call of the country and its students rose to the occasion and participated in the freedom struggle with a high sense of purpose and patriotism. Such should be the spirit behind any educational system. The spirit of freedom dominated the atmosphere of educational institutions before independence. In the same way, the spirit of national integration and service to humanity should be the dominating spirit in our educational institutions now. I hope that the students of Gujarat College who were in the forefront of our freedom struggle will compete with others in striving for national integration and national development. Only that way can we hope to achieve the economic emancipation without which political independence is not complete.

Since independence, our country is engaged in the mighty task of economic development so as to remove poverty, ignorance, hunger and disease. We have made laudable progress and today our country occupies a prominent place among the comity of nations. We have achieved self-sustaining rate of growth in agriculture and made rapid stride on the road to industrialisation, despite heavy odds and innumerable difficulties. In the acquisition of modern technology also we have made commendable progress. We want the benefits of progress to fully reach the common man. Students of this College can play a pioneering role in this gigantic task of national reconstruction just as their predecessors with a spirit of sacrifice played a historic role in the freedom struggle. The knowledge they acquire and the ideals they imbibe during their life in the College will, I am sure, enable them to maintain the noble tradition of their predecessors and set an inspiring example to the youth of the country. I am glad to know that the College is giving due importance to sports, which are so necessary for building up character. Several students of this College, I am told, have distinguished themselves in various games, especially cricket, at the national level.

I wish all success to the Gujarat College in its future endeavours. I thank the Chief Minister, Shri Madhav Singh, and the College authorities for inviting me here and giving me the opportunity to associate myself with this centenary function.

Role of Rural Management

I AM VERY glad to be here today for the second Convocation of the Institute of Rural Management. The Institute of Rural Management has been conceived to meet the management needs of our vast rural economy. I would like to congratulate the authorities of this Institute for their pioneering work in the last couple of years of its existence and the students who have successfully completed their training here and are about to enter the practical field of life.

This Institute is the first of its kind wholly devoted to undertake professional education of young graduates in rural management. Though established very recently in 1979, the Institute has already carved out a unique place of its own in the country's developmental efforts. I feel heartened to know that this Institute is striving to achieve the long-term objective of professionalising the management of producers' organisations in the rural sector. This is sought to be achieved by training bright young men and women in rural management so as to constitute a cadre of young, dynamic and committed managers of high calibre ; through upgrading the skills of the existing managerial personnel and through conducting research into operational problems facing them. It is highly encouraging to know that the first batch of 47 who received their post-graduate Diploma in Rural Management at the hands of our Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, last year, have already been absorbed by the organisations—rural cooperatives, in dairy, oil seeds, fisheries and health sectors in different parts of the country. I am sure that the present batch of 41, who are leaving the Institute this year as fresh graduates, will find suitable placements very soon. I wish them all success in their future endeavours. These 41 graduates are embarking on a career that is so very different and so much more exciting than most young men and women pursue.

The idea of providing professional management personnel to rural sector enterprises is a very exciting one. So far we have heard about specialists in management in industrial sector. Our rural economy occupies a predominant place with a vital role in the country's economic development. Nearly 80 per cent of our population who live in rural areas are dependent for their livelihood on agriculture and other allied rural occupations. There are a large number of landless agricultural workers ; there are artisans and craftsmen producing a variety of goods of human consumption. It is also widely recognised that it is in this area that widespread and deep-rooted poverty exists which needs a frontal attack for its eradication. Many programmes and schemes have been prepared for the removal of poverty. This is the

core of the Revised Twenty Point Programme taken up by the Central and State Governments. Increasing investments are being made in the rural sector to raise the levels of productivity. The development projects in the rural areas necessitate the setting up of innumerable rural enterprises in the cooperative and public sector. Successful completion of these projects and running of enterprises depends up on the availability of a sound and dedicated rural management system.

I am told that the "Operation Flood II" Stage, with a total outlay of Rs. 485 crores spread over a period of seven years, needs about 400 fresh graduates in rural managerial cadre each year. The setting up of oil-seeds producers' cooperatives and other programmes like co-operativisation in fruits, vegetables, cotton, fisheries, etc. will require trained rural managerial manpower on an ever expanding scale. I feel that there is an absolute necessity for Institutes of this kind to be set up in various regions of our vast country. I hope that all States will emulate the example by setting up specialised institutes to train up Cadres for the management of rural sector development projects.

The success in the war against poverty, hunger, disease and ignorance depends upon you, young friends, who will work in the rural sector. There is enormous scope and unlimited potential in the rural sector, which remains to be tapped. Increasing prosperity of people living in rural areas, producing foodgrains, agricultural raw materials like sugarcane, cotton, oilseeds will result in increasing prosperity of other sections of population in the country. It is mainly because of the lack of organisation and absence of managerial talent in the rural sector that the primary producers fail to get a fair deal. An improvement in organisation and induction of modern management practices will fill up this vacuum and help the rural people to derive benefits that are sought to be extended to them through various programmes and schemes which are being implemented for integrated rural development. I have every hope that with sustained and dedicated efforts we will succeed in driving away poverty and uplifting the poor and down-trodden sections of the population.

This is not an easy task. I come from a village and I know well how difficult it is for people educated in cities to establish rapport and identify themselves with the aspirations of the people. It is also difficult to perceive and overcome the forces operating in the rural areas. However, I am sure that your education here, in this unique Institute, has given you not only knowledge and skills but also the courage and determination to serve the rural poor.

Young graduates, who have completed their training here, will become active agents and effective instruments of change in the rural sector. They may not find their vocation in the rural management as glamorous and as lucrative as their counterparts in the highly organised and sophisticated

industrial sector. But they will share in full measure the excitement and adventure of rebuilding a vibrant and prosperous rural India. I have no doubt that they will be rewarded with a satisfying career and find proper scope for utilising their knowledge and skills.

The State of Gujarat is the birth place of the Father of our Nation, who inspired bands of dedicated workers in all parts of India for the cause of freedom. The same spirit of service should inspire all of us especially the youth of the country for the cause of nation building. I am sure that all of you, who are trained here in an atmosphere surcharged with the spirit of Mahatma Gandhi will give a good account of yourselves and prove worthy of your training.

I have noticed that your training programme consists of class study as well as field study and it gives me happiness to know that the Institute is providing you with excellent training on modern lines. May I venture to say that the training programme will become vastly superior if it is oriented with Gandhian philosophy and values. The keynote of Gandhiji's philosophy is, self-reliance. He wanted people to have control over their own destinies. The Satyagraha movement energised the people and reverberated throughout the country. You, who are undergoing training at this Institute, can well imagine what great dormant power could be released if the technical and managerial resources were available to be the partners of the rural people to build up a vibrant India.

Our rural brothers and sisters, who produce the nation's necessities of life, are hard-working, sincerely motivated, plain hearted and honest. I hope that each one of you who is going to work with them and for them, will always bear in mind that character and technical efficiency are inseparable and that on your honest, efficient and dedicated work will depend the future of these millions of our country as much as your own. My best wishes to you all.

I thank the Chief Minister of Gujarat and the Chairman and Director of the Institute of Rural Management for inviting me here and offering me this opportunity of saying a few words.

Enrich Culture Through Education

I AM GLAD to be here today and to associate myself with the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Campus of North-Eastern Hill University. Earlier, as Home Minister, I was familiar with this University and its

Speech at the foundation stone laying ceremony of the campus of North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, April 30, 1983

problems. But this is my first visit here after I assumed the office of the President of India. It gives me great pleasure to come here and participate in this function.

As you are all aware, the North-Eastern Hill University was set up in 1973 by an Act of Parliament for the benefit of the people of hill areas in this region. It is not mere dissemination and advancement of knowledge that has been entrusted to this university; it has been envisaged that this university will pay special attention to the improvement of the social and economic conditions and welfare of the people of hill areas of North-Eastern region. Thus this University is unique and distinct from all other universities. This uniqueness must be preserved. Another characteristic feature of this University is that its academic jurisdiction extends to two States of Meghalaya and Nagaland as well as to the Union Territory of Mizoram. The University has been specially designed to suit the local conditions and needs of the area. It is very gratifying to note that the University, with its headquarters at Shillong and two campuses at Kohima and Aizawl, is making rapid progress in spreading education and knowledge. However, lack of buildings of their own is causing difficulties as they are presently located in temporary structures.

The Government have taken up in right earnest the problem of constructing permanent campuses of their own at all these three places and proposals are at different stages of process. This building complex for which I have the honour to lay the foundation stone is one of the several such permanent structures that are proposed. I hope that this will go a long way in fulfilling the long felt needs of the University. I thank the Meghalaya Government for their generous donation of a plot of land measuring about 1,025 acres for the entire complex of the University. Similar, permanent structures are proposed to be constructed at Kohima and Aizawl. I am sure that with the construction of permanent campuses this University will be better equipped to fulfil its objectives and play a significant role in the educational and cultural life of the country.

This area is very fortunate in that it enjoys the advent of sunrise earlier than many other parts of our country, driving away darkness. In the same way, I hope the University that is fast coming up here will help in driving out ignorance and in laying the foundations for future progress on sound lines. The Government are aware of the special problems of the area which is rich in natural wealth and rich in its traditional culture of dance and song. In the field of education, as in many other fields, this area has made considerable progress. I am confident that students from this University will make their contribution to India's development in a distinct way and enrich the traditions further. I would like to stress the special character of this University, which must be developed in tune with the genius and aptitudes of the hill people of this region. I hope the academics who join this University

as teachers and researchers will keep this special feature in mind and see that the special requirements of this region are given due importance in the teaching curriculum and research programme. This will strengthen the bonds of our national unity by enriching the diverse elements which make up our composite culture.

I thank the Governor and the Chief Minister for inviting me here and giving me this opportunity to participate in this function.

Udyog Ratan Awards

I AM GLAD to be here for the Annual Conference of the Institute of Economic Studies and to give away the Udyog Ratan Awards. The theme chosen for this Conference 'Strategy for Economic Revival' is very appropriate and of topical significance. I believe that when a Government is working for the welfare of its people, as in our country today, the industrialists and the intellectuals should extend all cooperation and strengthen the efforts of the Government in solving many problems, that face the country.

We have three decades of experience in planned economic development and have made significant progress. India today is a leading developing country, with a sound agricultural and industrial base. The benefits of progress have not, however, adequately reached large sections of our people, and many schemes and programmes have been launched with this end in view. I hope that the deliberations of this Conference will focus attention on this problem of eliminating poverty and improving the living standards of the poverty stricken people.

Our economy is by and large based on agriculture and nearly 80 per cent of our people are dependent on it. Agriculture and industry are supplementary and the progress in one sector contributes to the progress in the other. Agricultural production can increase by inputs like fertilisers, insecticides, agricultural implements and so on, provided by the industrial production. If our farmers are provided with proper inputs and freed from the vagaries of monsoon, our country will produce enough to go round for everybody and we will be able to drive away hunger from our soil.

I am sure that you will consider the inherent problems of Indian economy and try to find out practical solutions by which the nation could increase its agricultural and industrial production, and provide a better life to its people. You have all heard the views of Shri N. D. Tiwari, Industries

Minister of the Government of India, who has given us a picture of industrial production in the country. It is well known that entrepreneurs are the backbones of industry and in India we have an entrepreneurial class which can play a worthwhile role in raising this country to a higher level of economic growth. As you all know, before independence, our industrial production was insignificant and we had to import almost every industrial product from outside. Today we are manufacturing a large variety of industrial products to meet our own needs, and even to export to other countries. We are proud of our scientists, engineers, technicians, managers and workers and all those who are engaged in the task of industrialisation.

I note that the Institute of Economic Studies has honoured some of the industrialists in the country who have contributed their mite to increase industrial production. The spirit behind these awards is recognition for hard work. These people have created employment for themselves and also provided employment to millions of people. While an award in itself is not that much important, I feel that the recognition of a person who has done some good to the nation in his own way, with his resources, is very important, and it is in this context that I would like to congratulate all those who have received the Udyog Ratan Awards today. I appeal to them to work even harder and give a further fillip to the industrial production in the country. Unless the fruits of industrial growth reach all people and every backward pocket of the country, millions of our people will not get a better deal and will remain below the poverty line. The entrepreneurs have a duty to the nation and I am confident that they will rise to the occasion and prove worthy of themselves.

Maintenance of cordial relations between the employees and the employers plays a vital role in the overall improvement in the management of industry, contributing for an increased production. I feel that labour, which is instrumental in increasing production should be entitled to get a proper share out of profits. It is also necessary for the labour to be involved in the management of industry at every stage which helps in maintaining discipline and emotionally good relations with employers. This becomes more important and all the more necessary in future with further growth in industrialisation.

The Institute of Economic Studies which has organised this function today is a voluntary organisation and the main task it has taken upon itself is to arrange studies, discussions and seminars involving economists, scientists and engineers and send their suggestions to the Government from time to time. To such voluntary organisations I would like to appeal that they should create a socio-economic consciousness among the industrialists of the country and conduct studies in the various neglected areas and pay more attention to the problems in the backward pockets of the country. I understand that the Institute of Economic Studies addressed itself to this

problem last year. That is good as far as it goes and I feel that there should be continuous effort by one and all in this direction to make really a dent on the problem of poverty.

With these words, I congratulate again all those who have received the awards today and appeal to them to work harder to achieve new heights. I express my thanks to Shri Lakappa for inviting me here and for giving me an opportunity to share my thoughts with you all. I have great pleasure in inaugurating the Annual Session and I wish success to your deliberations.

Reflections of Law

I CONSIDER IT a matter of great privilege to attend the inauguration of Platinum Jubilee Celebration of the University College of Law, Calcutta.

On this occasion it is but natural that we recall the vision and foresight of Shri Ashutosh Mukherjee who, as Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University, initiated steps for establishment of this college. Shri Ashutosh Mukherjee was an eminent jurist and judge. He was also a great educationist whose contribution to the growth of Calcutta University as a premier University of our country, we may recall with gratitude today. Both law and education being dear to his heart, Shri Ashutosh Mukherjee gave to this College of Law his best attention for its rapid growth. He himself also taught at this College. The high tradition of legal scholarship which has since been fostered here is evidenced by the very large number of legal luminaries one may count among the alumni of this College. Some of them have adorned the office of Chief Justice of India. It goes to the credit of this institution that the first President of India and my illustrious predecessor, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, had obtained his Master of Law Degree from this University and also taught for a number of years in this Law College. Dr. Radha Binode Pal who distinguished himself internationally as an eminent jurist was also a former student and teacher of this Law College.

Law is a learned profession. Those who study law at the Law College would generally take up the legal profession as lawyers ; many of them may join judiciary. But even those who do not take up the profession of law would find a legal education useful in other vocations. In our freedom movement, lawyers were in the forefront, and the top leadership was provided by them. One can recall the names of Mahatma Gandhi, Motilal Nehru, C. R. Das, Rajaji, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel, and many

others. Their legal learning fortified their love of freedom and their commitment to the rule of law.

In the course of our long freedom struggle, our leaders considered the emancipation of the country from foreign rule as only the first step towards the establishment of a free and just society in which every citizen would have the opportunity to develop his or her maximum potential as a human being. The principles of socialism, secularism and democracy which are enshrined in our Constitution are expression of this basic urge. While defining the powers and responsibilities of the three organs of the State—legislature, executive and judiciary, the Constitution assures to every citizen the rule of law.

The democratic system written into our Constitution is based on the concept of the rule of law, and the fundamental law of this country is the constitution which lays down not only the respective spheres of the legislature, the executive and the judiciary, but also the rights and duties of the citizen. At the same time the Constitution also lays down certain directive principles of State policy. All our measures for bringing about desired social and economic changes are, therefore, to be in consonance with the democratic framework. The law however, is not a static thing. In the democracy the people are the ultimate masters and the law must reflect the wishes and aspirations of the people for a just and egalitarian social and economic order. It is through the elaborate process of legislation that necessary measures for ameliorating the conditions of the weaker sections of our people have to be given concrete shape. Law in the ultimate analysis must express the conscience of our society.

The importance of a sound legal education in our democratic system based on the rule of law is, therefore, very great. Sound principles of jurisprudence, when embodied in specific pieces of legislation, strengthen the liberty of the citizen, and at the same time ensure that such liberty is not in conflict with the broader welfare of society as a whole. It is quite well known that laws are made for the benefit of citizen and society and for their welfare. Laws are meant for the people, not the other way. Hence, the welfare of man should be reflected in the laws that are made and the welfare of society should be uppermost in the minds of law makers. Jurists should be guided by this consideration alone. In promoting the awareness of sound legal norms and an understanding of the proper relationship between the citizen and the state in a democratic society, committed to the welfare of the masses, a College of Law, with such distinguished history and tradition as yours, can indeed play a valuable role. It gives me pleasure to note that this College does not confine its activities only to providing the graduate and post-graduate courses. The College, I understand, associates itself in organising well-known endowment lectures in law, such as the Tagore Law Lectures and Ashutosh Mukherjee Memorial Lectures. I am also happy to

know that the College has been also very active in sports, literary, cultural and other extra curricular activities. The College organises the Ashutosh Mukherjee Memorial Shield Debate every year, which is open to students from Law Colleges all over the country. I am confident that its glorious traditions will continue to be maintained in the future years and in due course the College will look forward to celebrating its centenary.

I thank the Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University, who very kindly invited me to join this function, and I have great pleasure in inaugurating the platinum jubilee celebrations of the University College of Law.

Unity in Diversity

I AM GLAD to be here today with you all and to inaugurate the First Annual Conference of the International Telugu Institute. Telugu is one of our major languages. Telugu-speaking people are spread not only throughout the country but in all parts of the globe. Telugu is bound to grow and enrich itself further with its increasing contact with other languages. It was indeed very appropriate for the Andhra Pradesh Government to have set up the International Telugu Institute, way back in 1975. The Institute was inaugurated by one of my distinguished predecessors, Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, on September 8, 1975.

We are one nation, with seventy crores of people, speaking many languages and following many faiths. There is a strong thread of unity and a sense of oneness, keeping our nation united. We have to work continuously for strengthening these underlying forces of unity in diversity. In this context, I am given to understand the International Telugu Institute has attempted to prepare a basic vocabulary pertaining to all Indian languages, picking up words in common use with same meaning from all languages. I appreciate the Institute's endeavours in this direction which deserve all assistance and encouragement from the States and Union Government. This helps in making the people realise the oneness in all, which constitutes the foundation of national integration.

"The hero, the seer, and the saint are the natural fruits of the Indian soil", so said Shri Aurobindo while writing about Shri Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, who gave us the national song "Vandematharam" which enthused our people so much, during the struggle for freedom. Some of our heroes consecrated their lives by undergoing all sorts of sufferings and sacrifices while fighting for freedom. They came from all parts of India. The

International Telugu Institute has undertaken a useful project in trying to tell the non-Telugus about the heroes, seers and saints born in this part of India. I am glad to hear that they have already published life sketches of Bhakta Pothanna in Hindi, Adi Kavi Nannaya in Marathi and have also trained a dramatic troupe in Hindi on the life of the great patriot Alluri Seetha Rama Raju who waged a relentless battle against the British.

This way also a realisation can come to us, the Indian people, that we are all one. Such attempts do pave the way for achieving national integration. I have a grand picture of India before me, spreading from the eternal snow peaks in the North upto Kanyakumari in the South. Indian languages are like a garland of flowers. The differences in their form and fragrance are due to the variety of the soil where they grow. Still a common thread passes through all of them which acts like a compelling force binding them together. That the International Telugu Institute is trying to make our people realise this truth, constitutes a happy augury. Organisations of this type should receive all encouragement both from the Government and the people. The Institute conducted seminars and organised lectures and cultural displays to create a necessary atmosphere for the Indians whether living within the country or abroad, to know each other and to help each other. Such activities should be continued and expanded.

I feel confident that the endeavours of International Telugu Institute will help the Telugu language to grow and develop further getting nourishment and enrichment from its contact with other languages. With these words, I inaugurate the Annual Conference and hope that you will have meaningful discussions leading to sound conclusions.

Collective Endeavours for Education

I AM GLAD to be here today to inaugurate the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Osmania Graduates' Association. This function's uniqueness consists in the fact that the graduates of Osmania University have striven to repay a debt to the society through creative and constructive endeavours for development through spreading of education. The graduates of Osmania University organised themselves into an organisation to work for the development of the erstwhile State of Hyderabad way back in 1932. They are now running many educational institutions in this part of the country. I feel heartened to note that there are about 10,000 children receiving education in the schools and

colleges run by this Association. I congratulate the office-bearers of the Association on their team spirit and dedication to the cause of education.

A society grows and develops when its individuals strive to work collectively through institutions. Ours is a democratic polity based on free and democratic institutions run by the people and for the people. This tradition of democratic way of life has taken deep roots in our soil, for which the growth of education over the last few decades has contributed significantly. We have accorded top priority in our socio-economic development plans to eradicate illiteracy. Our progress in the field of education is laudable although we have yet to travel very far to fulfil our objectives. The efforts of the Government should be supplemented by voluntary efforts of people. I am happy to note that the Osmania Graduates' Association has made signal contribution in the realisation of this objective of growth and development of education.

I am fascinated by the efforts of Osmania Graduates' Association to spread education. Here I find that the graduates have held together as a team for an unbroken period of fifty years and struggled to help the cause of education. Thus, a unique example and a noble tradition have been set up which needs to be emulated by others in the country. This I consider essential for accelerating the rate of progress. Those who are benefited by higher education owe a debt to the society which invested in their education and they should come forward like this Association to repay their debt to society.

We have a very noble tradition, in our ancient land of repaying debts. Everyone of us owes a debt to parents, to teachers, to society, having acquired it over the course of life's journey. This has to be repaid and accounts are to be balanced. This tradition has come down to us from ancient times just to remind us that a society continues while individuals come and go. The society will perish if we don't repay what we take from the society. It behoves the great to repay the debt in excess of what they take so that the society will not only have continuity but build on its tradition, to reach higher levels of achievement. A teacher blesses his pupil to become greater than himself and expects him to carry the torch of learning. The Guru expects his disciple to repay his debt through teaching others. This noble tradition of repaying debt to the society is being continued by the Osmania Graduates' Association. May the graduates of other Universities in the country emulate this noble example and take an active role in the spread of education.

I thank the President and other office bearers of the Osmania Graduates' Association for inviting me here and giving me this opportunity to meet you all. I wish you success in your future endeavours in the service of the nation.

Professional Dedication

I AM GLAD to be here and give away the awards for our meritorious teachers. As you are all aware these awards have been instituted by the Government in order to accord honour and recognition not only to the individual teachers who receive the awards but also, through them, to the teaching community as a whole. I congratulate the teachers who have earned the awards through their devotion and dedication. I hope that the recognition of their work would inspire the profession of teaching and contribute to the improvement of educational standards.

The nation celebrates today, as in every year, as the Teachers' Day. Today is the birthday of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, an illustrious predecessor of mine and a highly distinguished teacher himself. He was not a mere teacher but a great savant, scholar and philosopher. He was a teacher of teachers, in the tradition of the great Acharyas of ancient times. Speaking on a similar occasion about 20 years ago, Dr. Radhakrishnan said that the two qualities that mark out a true teacher are "intellectual integrity and universal compassion". The present occasion gives us an opportunity to pay our homage to him and rededicate ourselves to the realization of our cherished national goals. It is also an occasion for us to express our gratitude to the teaching community as a whole whose efforts shape the destiny of the nation. The awards represent the gratitude of the nation.

It is an acknowledged fact that men and women of character go to make a strong nation. Affluence by itself is not the desired end of human existence. Material prosperity based on foundations of moral and spiritual endeavours will ensure continued well being of society. Nations survive and prosper by the contributions of their people to various aspects of human life.

And how can we prepare citizens who are socially conscious and dedicated to the well being of the country, if not through education? Education of the right type, can be, in fact has to be the major instrument for bringing about social transformation. Training in skills required for national development, is only one dimension of the task that education has to perform. More important, in my view, is to prepare citizens who show an awareness of the consequences of their action, whose effort is governed by a desire to be good and to do good and who are ever ready to sacrifice their personal interests for the welfare of the community.

In any system of education, teacher plays the most vital role. Without his honest and dedicated work, educational activity would be difficult to carry out. Still less would be the possibility of building the character of children.

It is not only what he or she teaches but the kind of ideals that the teacher places before his pupils and the type of exemplary behaviour that he shows, which are significant for the growth and development of children. For children a teacher should be a model for emulation.

This places an awesome responsibility on the teacher. To be able to discharge it adequately the teacher must ever be alert and conscious that he is being watched and that his example is being followed. The teacher must, therefore, be ever watchful about what he or she does both in and outside the classroom. Needless to say that unless he or she is imbued with a sense of idealism and unless his or her actions are governed by values of truth, of beauty and goodness, a teacher would be unable to mould the character of his wards.

We are aware of the difficult conditions in which teachers perform their educational functions. Many of our schools lack even the minimum physical facilities. In most of our rural areas, children coming to primary schools are from homes with very limited means. While many of the children can not afford books, many come to school without a square meal. The Government are providing a good deal in providing the wherewithal for schools to motivate the children to enrol in schools. More than mere enrolment what is important is that children should be motivated to attend schools regularly and remain there for a sufficiently long period so as to attain the basic minimum education. Motivation is needed for the parents also to send their wards to school and keep them there for the requisite period. It is essential that governmental efforts are supplemented by the mobilisation of community action and resources.

The Government, realising the vital role of teachers in nation building, are constantly aware of the need for improving their status and service conditions and upgrading their academic and professional competence. The appointment of a National Commission on Teachers reflects this concern. I hope the Commission will come up with practical suggestions benefiting the teaching community.

I once again congratulate the teachers who have won the national awards for their work. I take the opportunity of thanking Shrimati Sheila Kaul for inviting me to this function here today.

The Man-Making Education

IT GIVES ME great pleasure to be associated with you on this auspicious occasion of the Post Centenary Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Madras University. I always feel happy to be in Tamil Nadu. I have a soft corner for the peace-loving, simple people of Tamil Nadu. This State has produced charismatic leaders like Kamaraj, Satyamurthi, Rajaji and Annadurai.

The University of Madras, as in the case of mighty streams, has grown steadily in strength and influence from its humble origin and played a laudable role in shaping 'Modern India'. Generations of students have passed out from the portals of the University Departments of Study and Research and the colleges affiliated. The excellence in teaching and research of this University is recognised the world over. This University has produced great scientists like C. V. Raman, K. S. Krishnan and others, eminent jurists like Alladi Krishnaswami and C. P. Ramaswamy Ayyar, memorable political leaders like Satyamurthy, Srinivasa Sastry and Rajaji and giant educationists and philosophers like Radhakrishnan, Arcot Ramaswamy Mudaliar and Arcot Lakshmanaswamy Mudaliar. Lack of time prevents me from mentioning the other innumerable names. This University is the mother of several universities in the South of India, like Andhra University, Osmania University, Mysore University, Kerala University, Sri Venkateswara University, and lately Madurai Kamaraj, Anna, Bharathiyar and Bharathidasan Universities. You have therefore every reason to be proud of this institution. I understand and appreciate the spirit with which you are celebrating this occasion. I congratulate all the members of the University for their efforts in organising this celebration.

The Indian Renaissance, which started with the efforts of Raja Ram Mohan Roy, got a fillip from the spread of modern education with setting up of the Universities at Calcutta, Madras and Bombay, during the fifties of the last century. They in turn helped in the setting up colleges in various parts of the country by producing lecturers and professors and above all the know-how in higher learning. By the turn of the last century, these three premier institutions successfully created an educated class throughout the country who could think alike and act alike, educated and influenced by the Western liberal thought based upon reason and judgement. Many leaders of our freedom struggle graduated from these universities. Thus they played a historic role in India's freedom struggle as well as in the general transformation of society.

The progress of higher education has been rapid since Independence. On the eve of first year of our planning, there were 27 universities with about 3.6 lakh students. Now we have more than a hundred universities with more than 32 lakh students. This has become possible because of enormous increase that has taken place in elementary and secondary education, under the five year plans. The rate of literacy has more than doubled from 16.6 per cent in 1951 to over 36 per cent in 1981. Because of this creation of a massive educational base, India could take pride now in being ranked third in respect of educational and skilled manpower. It is necessary to emphasise with an element of pride that we have been able to achieve all this within the framework of democratic institutions given to us by the founding fathers of our Constitution.

I am happy to know that the University of Madras has launched a long phased programme for establishing many new departments besides strengthening the existing ones. I am told that some of the proposed new departments are on various religions and philosophies. This line of thinking, I very much appreciate because it is the deep and true study of religions and philosophies that will bring out the best in human beings. It is natural for all of us to feel distressed because of the recent happenings in and around our country. I am sure that a comparative study of all religions, thoughts and practices will help in the betterment of human relationships and contribute for a peaceful and harmonious life for all. The moral and spiritual values are as important as the economic advancements and achievements. The quality of life is much more important than the standard of living. While at the same time, we have to satisfy the basic needs of the multitudes of our country many of whom live below the poverty line. The Universities can not afford to sit on ivory towers and simply watch the misfortune of the commoners of the nation, who are in the grip of pangs of poverty and hunger. Universities must come forward in imparting education intended for the upliftment of our weaker brothers and sisters.

India is marching ahead and occupies a prominent place in the comity of nations. India is respected and venerated not because of our material prosperity but because of our steadfast devotion to the ideals and values inherited from our forefathers. India stands on a platform of values based on peace, truth, love and compassion. We have been trying to adhere to these moral and spiritual values, while pursuing the path of economic progress with the avowed objective of removing poverty, ignorance, hunger and disease. We have made considerable progress in all fields but we are still to travel very far before we realise our goals. Experience has shown that we can achieve our national goals speedily with unity and discipline. Teachers, students and all educational institutions, constituting the intellectual community, have to play a historical role in this constructive phase of socio-economic transformation that is going on. The society and country look to you to

provide guidance and leadership. I have every hope that the Madras University which provided such leadership in the past, will continue to play a worthy role in future.

We, as a State and country, have set a national goal of eradication of poverty and attainment of self-reliance. The achievement of this ambitious goal largely depends upon farsighted planners, eminent scientists, efficient technocrats and competent administrators, majority of whom are necessarily to be produced by the universities in our country. Therefore it is the duty of the universities in our country to see that the standard of academic output is improved in tune with the changing and growing needs of our society, at the same time without giving up the basic values, which a university, as a citadel of learning, should stand for. The education imparted by the universities should enable the human minds to strengthen nationalism and to strive towards international brotherhood.

There seems to be a tendency at some places, among students to show lack of respect for their teachers and to indulge in acts of indiscipline. I do not blame the students for these unhealthy tendencies. I would like to suggest that the educationists, social workers and politicians should consider discouraging the political parties from setting up their cells in educational institutions since this harms the interests of students. It is also necessary that the teachers should avoid involving themselves in politics and concentrate on teaching and developing the intellectual faculties of students. Our young men and women, I am sure, are for the progress of our country and for the betterment of the living conditions of our people. I have great faith in the youth of our country. They need guidance and channelisation of their energies into constructive fields. The universities must provide this guidance and create a congenial environment.

All of us agree that the universities should enjoy full autonomy as far as the educational programmes are concerned. This autonomy cannot practically be maintained without substantial finance. I am glad to know that private sources have been tapped by this University and that many benevolent philanthropists in this part of our country have come forward to help establish several new departments in the university. I thank them all on behalf of the university and the nation.

I wish to point out that as games and sports promote physical health, the education properly imparted promotes mental health. Everything that is good and great, which we appreciate and enjoy today, is the product of great minds. A sound mind and sound body go always together. I hope and trust that the University of Madras will continue its sacred mission of expanding the frontiers of knowledge and act as a treasure house in preserving as a space vehicle in transmitting and as cosmic energy in renewing philosophy, knowledge and culture. I share your sense of gratification on

the past, satisfaction with the present and ambitious hope for the future, of this great seat of learning.

I thank the University Authorities for inviting me to inaugurate the Post Centenary Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the University of Madras. I wish the University all success in future.

Path of Spirituality

IT GIVES ME great happiness today to be with you in this inaugural function of the Golden Jubilee of Mira Movement in Education.

This great tradition was initiated by the noble saint, poet and philosopher Sadhu T.L. Vaswani at Sind-Hyderabad, now in Pakistan. Since then tremendous change has come in the political, social and economic conditions in this sub-continent. Partition of India compelled many people and institutions to migrate permanently from their original places. The Headquarters of Mira Movement had also to be shifted to India and the movement set up its new home in Poona in 1949.

It is a matter of deep satisfaction that Mira Movement is free from parochial, sectarian or communal prejudices and concentrates on character-building. Its basic purpose is spiritual orientation. It aims at disciplining the young students into leading a life of simplicity and service to the poor. For the last fifty years this useful institution has been nourishing the body, mind and hearts of the students and preparing them for the onerous responsibility of safeguarding the freedom and integrity of the country.

I feel the Movement deserves a more serious approach than it has received though it has gathered some momentum. I feel the kind of education we are now-a-days providing to our young ones is bereft of moral element. It is making the young minds completely oblivious of the higher values, spiritual piety and ethical purity in life. No country can survive on materialism alone. There must be some sheet anchors to sustain people in periods of trials and turbulations.

India can never claim to have been rich materially but spiritually it has withstood many a storm and has survived against unsurmountable odds. It is this spirit of our inherent strength which makes India rich in its cultural heritage and a home of the greatest human values like, peace, non-violence, love and tolerance. I am sure so long as we adhere to these higher values, we will hold our heads high in the comity of nations.

I have often been stressing upon our educationists to take care of the spiritual and moral aspect of education. It is a sad commentary that by and large this vital aspect is being missed. I wish there could be more institutions and movements like Mira Movement which may revive our great educational traditions and knit a strong fibre of moral strength in our youth.

I congratulate all those associated with this Movement for their devotion to the noble cause started by Sadhu Vaswani and I am sure they will continue to work with dedication to carry forward his message. My best wishes are with you.

I thank you once again for inviting me here today and wish the Movement continued success in the service of the nation.

Spread of Education

I AM HAPPY to be here today to inaugurate this new University. This will be an affiliating university and will go a long way to strengthen higher education in Kerala at present served by the three existing universities. I hope that the Kottayam university named after Gandhiji, will meet the growing needs of the area and fulfil the aspirations of the people.

Kerala is blessed with the highest rate of literacy in India. It has had the benefits of modern education from the beginning of the 19th century. Many historical factors, like the pioneering work done by the Christian missionaries and free education introduced by the enlightened rulers of the former Travancore State have helped the spread of education. Many colleges affiliated to the Madras University were set up before the birth of the University of Travancore in 1937. What is more impressive in Kerala is that voluntary organisations competed with each other to set up educational institutions. I understand that 80 per cent of the arts and science colleges in the State are run by voluntary agencies. Perhaps, this voluntary effort has helped Kerala to come to the forefront of educationally advanced States in our country.

In the field of education, India has made considerable progress after independence. We have a well organised system of education and some of our institutions compare favourably with the best in the world. We can feel proud of our scientific and technical manpower, both in quality and quantity. There are nearly 128 universities at present and we spend about 400 crore rupees per year on education. These figures, in aggregate terms,

are very impressive. However, the fact still remains that a majority of our population, about 60%, are still illiterate. Illiteracy is one of the basic reasons for backwardness. Its removal through education has been given a high priority in our five year plans. I would like to emphasise that determined efforts are needed to realise the objective of universal elementary education in the near future. This will broaden the base of our educational system, and harness the people's energies for national development.

While widening the base of education we should make sure that the courses offered are relevant to the needs of our people and help fulfil their hopes and aspirations.

In designing proper courses, it is essential to emphasise the need for building up moral character as well as to arouse intellectual curiosity of the learner. It is also necessary to instil in the mind of the learner love for his motherland and regard for his cultural heritage. In this context study of the history of our glorious fight for freedom should form an important part of the curriculum at the school as well as undergraduate stage.

Moreover, education at all levels must have a practical bias. This should emphasise the development of skills in using theoretical knowledge for practical purposes. Educational programmes must be supported by practical training in farms or factories. Such arrangements will establish linkage between education and employing agencies to the mutual benefit of both.

It is not enough to introduce work experience or emphasise practical bias in the schools only. The higher educational institutions should take a major responsibility in this direction. I understand that our universities are presently considering the proposals made by the University Grants Commission to restructure the undergraduate courses. If the first degree courses are made purposeful and provide for vocational training, I see no reason why our universities should not take a plunge in this direction.

Education has mainly two aspects, the cultural aspect which makes a person grow, and the productive, which makes a person do things. Both are essential for the community and the country. At the University stage of our education it is of utmost importance to cultivate the enrich the values of life dear to us and essential for the survival of mankind. As the rich spiritual and cultural values of brotherhood between man and man grow, love takes the place of hatred and trust comes in place of fear. And when this transformation takes place, the tendency towards violence disappears and the spirit of mutual help and co-operation grows stronger. Our universities must develop an educational atmosphere in which such values are cultivated to provide the youth with a decent approach to life.

You may have big buildings and the most upto-date equipment in your colleges. No doubt these are needed but even more there is need for building up an atmosphere. And this atmosphere has to be such that lays stress

on values and traditions which will be dear to us in our hearts and minds. In such hearts and minds there will be no place for hatred. They will have qualities of creativeness and productive for the larger benefit of the society as a whole. This gives the much required depth to the mental training of our youth and lays the foundations of a strong moral fabric.

I want this university named after the Father of our Nation to promote studies of Gandhian thought as Bapu wanted our people to have the widest cultural background so that narrowness of the spirit and the mind could be removed. He considered character building as the essential purpose of education and dreamt of developing in students qualities like truthfulness, love, courage, strength and the ability to forget oneself in working towards great aims. These qualities should be developed in students, whatever subject they study. In university this is not easy but it helps if we constantly keep this objective in mind and keep trying to develop this wider vision of life. I have suggested a thorough study of the history of our freedom struggle, as in our case we did not fight with any strong arms and weapons. Ours was more a fight on the moral and spiritual plane based on the love of humanity under Gandhiji's leadership, we had won in a total sense as our freedom did not leave an iota of hatred for the former rulers. Therefore, I say, one has to put one's life in some relation to the national and international life that is developing. Thus, you can spread yourselves out with your feet firmly on the ground. But with your ideological development and training, your head must occasionally touch the skies.

A university is a part of the society it seeks to serve. It cannot shut itself away from the realities of the world around it. It is time for our academic community to take a more positive role in grappling with the problems of contemporary life. Our teachers and students with university education must share their knowledge, expertise and experience with their less fortunate brethren. After all, knowledge is something that can and must be shared. It does not impoverish the giver; it only enriches him.

With these few words, I thank the Government of Kerala for inviting me here to inaugurate this University, and I wish the University all success.

Literary Inspiration

I AM HAPPY to be here today and to give away the Vayalar Rama Varma Sahitya Award for the year 1983. I congratulate the recipient of the Award for his achievement and wish him good luck. This is the seventh

successive year that this award is being given. I feel gratified to know that a Memorial Trust was formed out of donations from the people to perpetuate the memory of a popular poet. This is in tune with the spirit of times, which speaks volumes about the singular greatness of the poet Vayalar Rama Varma and how much he was venerated by the people. I understand that the poet had won the hearts of people by his literary endeavours, especially his songs.

I admire the people of Kerala for their spirit of adventure and enterprise. They are seen to be working in all parts of the country and in all callings. Not only that, they are seen in almost all parts of the world, especially in the countries of West Asia, enriching this country with their valuable earnings in foreign exchange

Malayalam is one of our highly developed national languages with a great past. It has grown independently drawing inspiration and influence very liberally from many other languages like Arabic, Persian, Portuguese, Dutch and English with which it came into contact from the dawn of history. In this process of assimilation, Malayalam has developed with a cosmopolitan character of its own. This wide dispersal and contact with many contemporary languages in India and abroad are also of singular importance for the growth of Malayalam. Kerala people are the most literate in the country and literacy here means education.

Mankind owes a heavy debt of gratitude to its great thinkers and creative writers, such as poets, novelists, philosophers, historians and others. Of all creative writing, I feel that the writing of poetry needs divine inspiration. Poets reflect the conscience of humanity and poetry is an invocation to God. It is in the fitness of things that Society honours its great poets as it honours its Seers and Saints. I am, therefore, very glad to note that an award has been instituted to honour the name of the great poet and writer of Kerala Vayalar Rama Varma.

As is well known, Kerala has produced outstanding poets in Sanskrit. Who does not know in India that it was Adi Sankaracharya whose poetical works, though mainly confined to spiritual subjects, helped to forge cultural unity of India. Malayalam literature whether it is poetry or prose, drama or song, has a very distinguished record of history over the centuries. Maintaining its own individuality and identity it has imbibed freely from other languages and has grown into a rich stream. All the languages in India have been undergoing a transformation since the beginning of contact with Western countries in their philosophies, thoughts and languages. The development of prose writing in Indian languages owes its inspiration to the contact with English and spread of English education in India in the recent past. I am told that prose writing in Malayalam was in vogue much earlier, as long ago as in the thirteenth century.

In recent memory, Malayalam literature was enriched by the great trio Mahakavi Ullor S. Parameswara Iyer, Kumaran Asan and Vallothol Narayana

Menon. It is a matter of pride that two stalwarts in Malayalam literature, Mahakavi G. Sankara Kurup and S. K. Poortekkat have won the Jnanpith award in recent years.

We have inherited a tradition of honouring scholars and poets in our country. Society honours them not because of their material splendour or political power, but because of their commitment for the welfare of society. It is the writers, scholars and poets that provide moral leadership to a society in crisis. In our own freedom struggle, writers in Indian languages played a big role and their pioneering role heralded many social changes and reforms. They have greater responsibilities on their shoulders now in strengthening national unity and solidarity. The mission of any language is to inspire a sense of fellowship and brotherhood among people. It is not mere narration of facts that literature in any language is concerned with; its supreme task is to develop a sense of values. India is undergoing a vast socio-economic transformation and the traditional static society is on the move, in contact with science and technology. I feel that writers and scholars should feel concerned about the changes and project the positive spirit of people's endeavours for building a modern India free from poverty, hunger and disease.

I thank the Chairman and the members of the Vayalar Rama Varma Memorial Trust for inviting me here and giving me an opportunity to meet you all.

Objectives of Medical Education

I AM INDEED very happy to be in the midst of a gathering of distinguished medical scientists, professionals and teachers who have assembled here for the 23rd Annual Conference of the Indian Association for the Advancement of Medical Education. It is very heartening to note that this Association is taking such a keen and abiding interest in matters of medical care and public health so much relevant and vital to the humanity.

Health, it is universally accepted, is not an isolated concept. It is closely linked with and dependent upon overall social and economic development of a community. The objective of a sound National Health Policy should be to provide good and adequate health care system for all citizens and especially for women, children and under-privileged groups of Society.

We, in India, have been making conscious and concerted efforts since independence to achieve the overall integrated development of Society—

cultural, economic, educational, social and medical care. In this context, Health has formed an important component of our Five Year Plans. Considerable progress has been achieved in raising the health status of our people. For example, Small-Pox has been eradicated, Plague is no longer a problem, mortality from diarrhoeal diseases has decreased and Malaria brought under control to a considerable extent. The mortality rate per thousand population has been substantially reduced and the life expectancy of birth has substantially increased. An extensive network of dispensaries, hospitals and institutions providing specialised curative care has developed and a large stock of medical and health personnel of various levels, has become available. Significant indigenous capacity has been established for the production of drugs and pharmaceuticals, vaccine, hospital equipment, etc. However, inspite of impressive progress in certain areas, we are still faced with some negative aspects of the picture. Mortality rate among women and children is still comparatively high. Little dent has been made on the massive problem of malnutrition and environmental sanitation. The country has still to go a long way in the control of several communicable diseases. Water and filth-borne diseases are still major public health problems in our country. Programmes against leprosy and tuberculosis need to be tackled more effectively. The prevention of blindness is another area in which lot of work is required to be done by all concerned.

The high rate of population growth continues to have an adverse effect on the health of our people and the quality of their lives. There is no denying the fact that unless we are able to contain the growth of population within the planned parametres, we will not be able to reap the maximum benefits from our efforts in the field of economic and health care development. This is one problem which deserves our undivided attention and whole-hearted support.

As the key to achieving 'Health for All by the year 2000 A.D.' Primary Health Care approach needs to be adopted as the first level of contact between the people and the health system coupled with the full support and involvement of the community. Further, Primary Health Care should be an integral part of the overall national and local socio-economic development.

Keeping in view the emerging needs of health care in India, particularly with a commitment towards achieving the goal of 'Health for All by 2000 A.D.' the Government have recently finalised the National Health Policy. This, indeed, is a very important landmark in the history of health care delivery system of this country. The Policy has been evolved with a view to establishing a fully integrated planned framework, which seeks to provide universal, comprehensive planned health care services, relevant to the needs and priorities of the community. This Policy also endeavours to ensure that the planning and implementation of the various health programmes is through the organised involvement and participation of the community.

I understand the theme of this Conference is 'Educational Correlates of Comprehensive Family Health Care'. This theme is very relevant to our concept of providing comprehensive health care. Family forms an integral and important component of our social set-up. Further, even in the family, the most important members to be looked after are the mothers and children, who between themselves constitute around 70% of the country's population. Both women and children tend to be vulnerable to deviations in health and therefore call for special attention. Health is a matter of habit, which needs to be inculcated. Children being in formative years imbibe such knowledge and develop habits quite easily.

The doctor in the community has, therefore, to be trained according to the role he is expected to perform. It is encouraging to observe that the medical educators of the country are getting together to deliberate on this most pertinent aspect of medical education. It is hoped that the educators will seriously review the present educational content and techniques and assess them in the context of the needs of the day. So many years of experience after independence have clearly brought out the problems with a fair amount of clarity to the forefront. What is required is to find solutions which are relevant to the country's needs and simultaneously are also accepted by the people.

I hope that during the deliberations of this Conference, the teachers would be able to pool their experience and thoughts on the vital aspects of medical education and be able to evolve a module in medical education and techniques with regard to training in comprehensive health care which can be adopted in all medical colleges of the country.

With these words, I have great pleasure in inaugurating the 23rd Annual Conference of the Indian Association for the Advancement of Medical Education and wish your deliberations all success.

Liberating Influence of Education

I AM GLAD to associate myself with the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of Delhi University which begin from today. Delhi University is not only one of the most prestigious universities in the country, but it has also been a model in several respects. The University was originally conceived as a teaching and unitary university, with a small number of colleges around the campus, with teachers participating in the teaching programmes both

in the departments and the colleges. Over the years, this concept had to change, and today, the Delhi University has grown into one of the largest universities in the country. There are at present 64 colleges affiliated to the University with a total enrolment of about 1.30 lakhs students.

All these years, in spite of the heavy pressure for admissions to the programmes of the University, I am glad that the Delhi University has maintained a high standard of excellence. The fact that the Delhi University today has as many as six Centres of Advanced Study, some of which are internationally reputed, speaks for itself. This is an achievement about which any University can feel proud. I congratulate the University of Delhi, its teachers and students for this significant achievement.

The concept of a University, confined to class-rooms and libraries, is being increasingly questioned. In the modern context, a University is no more an exclusive preserve of teachers and students. The Universities are being asked to reach out to the community and to grapple with the problems of contemporary life. I am glad to know that, in this area also the Delhi University has not lagged behind.

Your programme of non-collegiate women's education is a pioneering example for many other universities to emulate. Women candidates register themselves for degree courses of the University without having to attend the regular classes; special contact programmes are arranged for them. This provision enables a very large number of women to appear in various university examinations and improve their prospect of becoming earning members of their families. Similarly, in the field of adult education and extension activities, I am told that the Delhi University has an impressive record of achievements. Extension lectures, in the nature of enrichment programmes for the general public, and socially useful activities like population education, etc. have been organised on a large scale. All these have surely contributed a great deal to making the Delhi University not merely a centre of academic excellence, but a useful instrument of service to the community.

We are living through a period of tensions, stresses and strains. In fact, the world today is in the midst of a crisis. There are tensions building all round us. Indeed, the very survival of mankind is under threat.

We have also our own share of problems within the country, but, as a nation, we have been able to withstand all the pressures and tensions for the last 36 years since our independence. This is a fact about which we can justifiably feel proud. We have been able to achieve this primarily because in our consciousness the unity of the nation and its integrity are deeply imbedded. It is, therefore, painful to hear sometimes voices of disharmony and disintegration. The values of tolerance, reason and goodwill are integral parts of our heritage. These have been transmitted to us through generations. Can we afford today to undermine these values?

Never before have these values been so paramount as today in the context of the tensions that grip the world.

It is said that education is one of the most liberating influences on the mind of man. It is true that the tremendous advances made by science and technology in the modern age have imparted a great deal of specialisation in education. This specialisation has certainly helped man in harnessing nature and improving the quality of life. But the obsessive preoccupation with specialisation has, to a degree, relegated the liberating influence of education to the background. It is necessary that in our educational endeavour we should try to strike a desirable balance between the liberating qualities of education, and the need for specialisation necessary for economic and scientific development. Our educational programmes should basically centre round man, his character, his personality, his relationship with the environment and his role in shaping the world imbued with a deep sense of humanism.

The leadership in providing such an orientation to our educational programmes must surely come from the academic community itself. For, it is to teachers that the community looks forward not only in shaping and moulding the young generation, but also in awakening the consciousness of all mankind.

Delhi is a miniature India. People from all parts of the country, speaking different languages, following different customs, belonging to different religions, all live together in this great city. This cosmopolitan character of Delhi is fully reflected by the Delhi University. You have teachers and students belonging to all the regions, states, languages, and cultures, and yet the University has never had any problem arising from this apparent diversity. This fact alone underlies the basic unity of our people and the compositeness of our culture. The Delhi University thereby provides a shining example of how our educational institutions can promote unity and integration.

Education should also prepare individuals for life. Our educational programmes should also include imparting of skills and competences which will enable the students to become productive members of the society and participants in the processes of development. It is only through such programmes of education that we can hope to produce a generation of men and women who can assume the leadership in promoting economic self-reliance. In the modern context, no country can be absolutely independent. The world is too complex, and interdependence is becoming increasingly evident. It is, therefore, imperative that we should be able to increase our own inner strength so that in an interdependent world, we are not merely seekers of aid. Our experience in the past few years in agriculture has shown that purposeful educational programmes can accelerate the process of development. This should be possible in other

fields too. We should be able to develop our own technologies suited to our genius and requirements. We may not expect spectacular changes all of a sudden. Small improvements can add up to significant changes, which may be perceptible only a little while later. Nevertheless, such changes are worth experimenting. For example, restructuring the programmes of education to promote on a significant scale the development of skills, particularly in areas where self-employment is possible, would surely be a major step in this direction. I am sure, the Delhi University which has pioneered many major experiments would give attention to this aspect and initiate suitable reforms in the educational programmes that will promote greater economic self-reliance for the country.

I have great pleasure in inaugurating the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of this great University, and I wish your endeavours all success. I thank the Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University for having invited me to this function.

Development of Human Personality

I AM HAPPY to be here this morning and to associate myself with the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of Bapuji Educational Association. I have listened with great interest to what the Chairman Dr. H. K. Krishnaswamy has said. I should like to congratulate the institution on the excellent work it has been doing for the last 25 years. On an occasion like this, it is only fair for us to remember those who with their vision, courage and strength, started the idea of establishing this institution.

While I congratulate this institution on completing 25 years of its active life and wish a still brighter future ahead, I would like you to remember the great ideals which have inspired you and try to implement them in every act of your lives. Gandhiji was a great seer. He felt things and advised and guided us. We had in Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, a man of vision who adopted reason to implement those ideals. It is due to his dynamic leadership that there has been a steady progress in our country after independence. The bullock cart gave place to bicycle and the bicycle to automobiles. Today, we are attempting to touch the sky and reach the stars. An Indian Cosmonaut has reached the Salyut-7 space station. Now, we can proudly say that 'Sky is no longer the limit.'

Our objective is all-round development. This development need not necessarily be confined to economic development only. Economic

development is important for us because of the backwardness and poverty in which millions of our people live, but economic development by itself will not take us forward. We have, therefore, to lay adequate emphasis on the development of human personality and it is this role that makes education very crucial. For this, much depends on what is taught, how it is taught and how the children absorb that knowledge. Attention to these aspects makes education relevant and meaningful. Unless our educational programmes are related to our economic and social environment, we will not be able to impart relevance to our programmes.

Another aspect which should cause concern to us is too much emphasis being placed on examinations. One could even say that education is at present examination-oriented. Though it may not be easy to dispense with the examinations altogether, it is necessary that we consider development of tools that can test the ability of students objectively. At any rate, there is need to discourage mugging, cheating, mass-copying and a variety of other malpractices which are eating up the vitals of our educational system. Examinations should be such as to encourage the students to learn substantially rather than cram.

We should think seriously of re-organising the courses offered by our universities and prepare programmes which could afford opportunities to students to develop their creative abilities. Participation of students in community activity, developmental projects or such activities that develop their personality like sports, games, music and so on, should get due recognition.

Equally important is the promotion of our great values, traditions and ideals of secularism, democracy, socialism and national integration. Such an effort in education would indeed make education a meaningful investment. It is only then that our universities can become institutions of service to the society and the nation.

It is my sincere hope and my devout wish that this institution which has completed 25 years may grow into a great seat of learning and produce citizens imbued with a sincere devotion to serve the cause of the country.

I have great pleasure in inaugurating the Silver Jubilee Function of Bapuji Educational Association and also in laying the foundation-stone of the Post Graduate Centre. I thank you all for this opportunity to be here amongst you today and to share some of my thoughts with you.

Self Discipline

IT IS ALWAYS a pleasure for me to come to any function associated with educational institutions. I had the honour of inaugurating the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of Bapuji Educational Association, and also lay the foundation-stone of Post-Graduate Centre of Mysore University this morning and this is the second function today connected with educational institution. It reflects the speed with which Karnataka is marching ahead in the field of education. I am grateful to you for your warm words and for this valuable gift which I shall always cherish. I have been struck by the warmth and affection which the people of Karnataka have showered on me.

I have lived a sufficiently long public life and been closely connected with cultural and academic activities. I, therefore, feel at ease while speaking in colleges, schools, institutions, as well as in churches, gurudwaras and other social functions. After all, life, in itself, is a long pursuit of knowledge in one form or the other.

It is also a pleasure that some of your old members are with us today. It shows the deep impression this Society has made on them, how it has entered into their very being, compelling them to come to give encouragement and inspiration on this occasion.

The primary concern of education is the development of human intellect and resourcefulness. The development of these faculties is necessary for the overall economic well-being, but even more important than that is the spiritual development of the people, their sense of values, their understanding of our concerns, and so on. Since independence, we have made very significant progress in several fields, such as industry, science and technology. These developments have contributed substantially to our social development. As a result, the needs of our society are rapidly changing. Advancement of education has to be geared to meet the new challenges being thrown by this rapid development.

It should be the endeavour of our educational programmes to inform the people of our ideals, our national pride and about the richness and diversity of our heritage. It is even more important in the present context that we learn to live as one united nation without prejudices of caste, creed or religion. The tensions that we find developing around us, whether it is communal or linguistic, can in the long run weaken our age-long social fabric. In our context, therefore, education has to imbibe in the coming generation, the values of tolerance, reason and understanding. Unless we develop these qualities in the people, our survival as a nation will be in peril.

The country's greatest need today is self-discipline. It is discipline that we want in every sphere whether social, economic or political to maintain the country's progressive and prosperous outlook. Education should be such as to infuse in us a strong feeling that we all belong to one nation and the whole of the country belongs to each one of us and we have to tend it, care for it and build it. Anyone who tries to weaken this unity would in effect be trying to dismember the country whether it is in the name of language, region or religion. We have to guard against such divisive forces and institutions like yours can play a significant role in this important field.

Shri H.M. Gangadhariah should be the most happy man today. Often we lay the foundation-stones of building, either they disappear in course of time, or, are removed from one place to another, but here he has the satisfaction of seeing the fruition of his endeavour. It is my earnest hope that your Society may attain a still greater eminence in intellectual and academic fields. On account of its glory, everyone of you may feel proud to be a student of this Society. I am sure that your old boys are doing exceedingly well wherever they are placed.

A great future awaits your Society. I hope that it will grow to become a great centre of learning and celebrate its centenary. With that hope, I lay the foundation stone for the commemoration building of your Society.

Importance of Social Science

I AM GLAD to be here today and to inaugurate the IXth Indian Social Science Congress. The theme of the Congress chosen by you, "State and Society in India" is very topical and I congratulate the Indian Academy of Social Sciences for focussing attention on this. Present in this gathering are distinguished scholars drawn from different universities and research institutions in our country. Also represented here are a wide range of social science disciplines, from economics, history and sociology to philosophy, education and linguistics. Although these disciplines have their own professional associations, which meet periodically, to deliberate over matters of intellectual movement, such meetings do not provide an opportunity to scholars from different disciplines to interact with each other. This Congress of the social science disciplines, as a whole, is a unique institution, with profound implications for the generation of knowledge relevant to our social development. I welcome the creation of such a forum which offers an unrivalled opportunity to scholars in different disciplines to discuss

problems of mutual interest with each other, and through such interaction, to generate knowledge which would help us to understand as well as to transform our society.

It is, so I believe, singularly appropriate that the IX Social Science Congress is being hosted by the Aligarh Muslim University. It gives me particular pleasure to be present at a Congress which is being held in this great University, for which I have a special affection. Perhaps the noble traditions upon which the Aligarh Muslim University rests are too well-known to the scholarly community to be recounted at the present juncture. Suffice it to mention, that when it was established in the late 19th century, under the distinguished leadership of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, one of the greatest Indians of that age, it pioneered in laying the basis for the scientific and cultural growth of our country. These noble traditions were nurtured and developed by generations of eminent scholars who have held professorial positions in this university; and who have left an indelible impression upon the minds of those young students who received their education under its aegis. It is a matter of special satisfaction to me, that under its present leadership, the Aligarh Muslim University is living up to the worthy traditions associated with its past.

Indeed, it is a matter of historical record, that in no other country has the intellectual been accorded the dignity which he has been accorded in India. Yet, if we can draw satisfaction from the past, it is equally necessary for us to look at the present, and build for the future. What are the changes which are taking place in our country contemporaneously? How do these changes, whether they pertain to the material or to the moral domain, affect the life of our people? How should our society be transformed if the lot of the common man is to be improved. What are the instruments which the intellectual community, particularly social scientists, can shape to bring about social progress in India? These are some of the questions to which scholars can address themselves. We have, today, a more active view of the role of the intellectual than we had in the past. We believe that the intellectual shapes values which can inspire, as well as inform the people, and also prepare them for the vital tasks of nation-building.

May I request the scholars who have assembled here, to address themselves to national issues in the spirit which I have suggested, and in doing so, lay the basis for a creative social transformation of India.

Ours is a civilisation of antiquity which has a recorded history of three millennia and more. The contribution of our civilisation to the sciences, to philosophy, religion and literature, and to the performing and visual arts is known throughout the world. Equally outstanding is the material culture which we have built over the centuries and which rests upon the labour of our people. The productivity of our agriculture was the envy of all those

who came to our land; as was the skill of our artisans, whose products were famous for their craftsmanship, and combined utility with beauty in finely balanced proportions.

Perhaps the material and intellectual achievements of our civilisation need to be explored in depth by social scientists. What were the distinctive and unique features of this civilisation? How were they reflected in the production of material values and in the domains of religion and culture? The creative genius which produced this unique civilisation need to be understood in all its diversity. In the changing circumstances of our times, there is as much need for continuity, to sustain the social order, as there is need for change, to build a better future. We, therefore, need to understand our past and our present in order to build for ourselves a better future.

Some of the questions which I have raised can be satisfactorily answered on the basis of the immortal truths which the great men among our past-philosophers, religious teachers and statesmen—have bequeathed to posterity. Ours is a composite culture which teaches forbearance and regard for others to man. Ours is also an integral culture which proclaims the message of humanism and love to the world at large. It is through such noble characteristics that the civilisation of India has, over the centuries, acquired so enviable a reputation for tolerance and catholicity.

Among the values which have sustained India over the ages, more particularly in recent times, is the value of secularism. This value constitutes, so I believe, one of the most fundamental values of our society. The ideal of secularism links different religious communities in the country—Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Jains and others—in firm bonds of loyalty to the nation. Here I would like to emphasise the fact that the concept of secularism, as it has developed in India, is different from the way this concept is understood in the West. The Indian concept of secularism, which to my belief is a particularly noble definition of this concept, does not involve a denial of our rich religious heritage, which is very dear to the people and provides them with a vision of the good life. The Indian definition of secularism rests on the belief that all the religions known to mankind seek common moral objectives and identical social goals. Inspired by this belief, secularism in India gives equal dignity and extends equal regard to all religions.

With these few words, I conclude by thanking the Indian Academy of Social Sciences for inviting me here and giving me an opportunity to meet you all and share my thoughts. I have pleasure in formally inaugurating your Congress and wishing success to your deliberations.

Symbol of Secularism

I AM DELIGHTED to be here today and to associate myself with the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the All India Bahadur Shah Zafar Academy. The very mention of the name of Bahadur Shah Zafar brings back to us countless memories of India's first war of independence and the heroic sacrifices made under the pioneering leadership of this last Mughal ruler. It was the first concerted struggle for independence led by him and participated by the people of different faiths, especially Hindus and Muslims, like brothers. His leadership was accepted by others like the Rani of Jhansi, Tantia Tope, Nana Saheb Peshwa, Baba Kunwar Singh, Begum of Audh and many others who rallied under his flag to fight with the British. Thus Bahadur Shah Zafar became a symbol of India's independence and secularism.

Respect for all faiths is the essence of secularism which is an integral part of our ancient tradition. Secularism and what all it stands for, constitute the very basis of polity, which was given concrete expression in our Constitution. Thus the movement started by Bahadur Shah Zafar more than a hundred years ago, became a successful one achieving its noble objectives. Varanasi is a sacred place and very appropriately the academy is located here. Secularism is a sacred concept full of spiritual significance. Many eminent people have already spoken about Bahadur Shah Zafar and the services rendered by the Academy over the last twenty-five years, for the cause of national integration. I am told that the Academy consisting of eminent leaders of all the communities, has played a very important role in maintaining communal harmony in this place which is the abode of Lord Viswanath. I congratulate the members, office-members and all others connected with this Academy for their successful endeavours.

The essence of all religious faiths is the same, based on one God, the realisation of which is the goal of humanity. There is no contradiction between the spiritual experiences of saints, fakirs, gurus, and mahatmas. All of them emphasise the basic unity and ask us to follow the spirit of toleration and respect for all faiths. Thus religion is meant to promote unity, not to create differences and sow the seeds of hatred between people of different communities. Resorting to violence in the name of religion, as witnessed nowadays is a matter of sorrow and pain. People who preach hatred and violence in the name of religion are not friends of religion, but enemies of religion. National integration based on unity of people of all faiths comes above all others. This is our supreme task, without which it is difficult to score a victory in the battle against poverty, hunger, disease and ignorance.

I am told that the Bahadur Shah Zafar Academy is going to organise a conference of all the registered national integration councils in November this year. This is a step in the right direction which I commend. There are many voluntary associations working for national integration in all parts of the country and it is necessary to bring all of them together and build a mighty movement for national integration.

I am given to understand that the new building of the Academy will be called Ekta Bhavan and that the Varanasi Development Authority will undertake its construction. After completion I am sure the Ekta Bhavan will become a cementing force and a place of pilgrimage to all those who visit this sacred place.

With these few words, I thank the Bahadur Shah Zafar Academy for inviting me here and wish it success in its good work.

Pledge of Dedication

I AM HAPPY to be here today and give away the National Awards to meritorious teachers. This has given me an opportunity once again to honour and congratulate the teachers who have exhibited exemplary devotion and sincerity in discharging their responsibilities. I hope that the recognition awarded to their good work would continue to inspire the whole profession of teaching and contribute for an overall improvement of the educational standards in the country.

Teachers' Day is for us a day of renewal — renewal of our energies and renewal of our austere effort directed towards study and learning. It is a day, on which we remind ourselves of the great gurus, sages and teachers who have created the noble and uplifting culture of the country. On this day which is the birthday of Dr Radhakrishnan, one of my illustrious predecessors, we resolve to cultivate those great qualities which were so singularly embodied in the brilliant and wise personality of Dr S. Radhakrishnan.

As you all know, the country is passing through a crucial period in its development history. The fast changing technology and the society around us also generate stresses and strains in social fabric. We have to overcome these and harmonise ourselves with ever-changing environment. The struggle, however, assumes additional dimensions when there are designs to thwart these efforts. We need enlightened citizens who can see through such designs and work towards the achievement of national goals with a

sense of commitment and dedication. I believe that the teaching community has a vital role to play in the development of such citizenry by inculcating in the children under their stewardship the values of patriotism, tolerance, cooperation and dedication to the national cause. Promotion of national integration and secularism should become the foremost goal of education. As pacesetters for the other members of the teaching profession I call upon the national awardees present here to spread this message to every member of the profession.

Our expectations from the teaching community are high, it is justifiably so, because the pliable years of human life are in your hands. But at the same time, we are conscious of the difficult conditions under which teachers work. I would like to assure the teaching community that the Government is seriously engaged in improving the status of teachers commensurate with the challenging task they are expected to pursue. The teachers, I hope, will continue to do the good work they have been doing with a sense of commitment and dedication.

In the end, I thank Shrimati Sheila Kaul for having invited me to distribute National Awards to teachers. I would once again congratulate the Award winning teachers.

India and the World

Growing Understanding

IT IS MY privilege and pleasure to extend to you, Mr. President, once again, a most warm and friendly welcome on your first State visit to our country. Although you yourself have been here before, I understand Madame Mitterrand is in India for the first time. There is an additional reason for our satisfaction and happiness. I welcome in our midst other distinguished members of your delegation also. Some of them have been here earlier for talks with our authorities. Their visits have helped in strengthening the growing understanding and friendship between our two countries.

France and India share a long history of mutually beneficial contact and acquaintance. Our two great heritages of culture and our philosophical traditions have garnered something from each other in the process. In more recent times, this kinship has been strengthened by the complementarity of our political and social objectives and attitudes. Cooperation between our two countries which is acquiring a new and larger dimension is, I believe, good for India as well as France, and for peace, harmony and cooperation in the world as a whole. Your present visit to India, Mr. President, marks a stage in the strengthening of this cooperation.

We are living in difficult times. The world around us is astir on the one hand with high expectations on the part of the peoples whose rights and aspirations were disregarded hitherto as they were not masters in their own homes; on the other, it is deeply troubled by tension and conflict, and the confrontation between the great powers which has adverse effects on other nations too and undermines peace and harmony and the equilibrium of the world as a whole. The promise of a better and brighter life for the millions of developing countries, made possible by the phenomenal progress of science and technology is confronted by the spectre of a nuclear war and an escalating arms race in weapons of mass destruction. The virtual breakdown of detente and the growing gap between developed and developing nations have further aggravated fear and mistrust among nations and created an unprecedented crisis of confidence in the world community's ability to manage its political and economic problems and the inter-related issues of peace and development. It is imperative that the men and women in whose hands destiny has entrusted the guidance and management of the affairs of the mankind in these critical times should take stock of this situation and make a common, determined effort to reverse the current

trend. India, on her part, is ready to work together with France and other nations to strengthen international peace and cooperation to ensure progress and advancement of nations in all parts of the globe.

In our own region, we seek closer friendship with all countries. With most of them our relations are cordial and cooperative and we are earnestly endeavouring to improve and strengthen our relations with others on the basis of mutual respect and benefit. We believe all international issues can be resolved by peaceful means. In the life-time of our own generations, the old concepts of the scope and meaning of power have undergone a radical transformation of a kind which rules out the use of the weapons of ultimate destruction for the settlement of differences and disputes between Nations. If mankind is not to perish, the power of the means and knowledge of modern science and technology must be used only for peaceful purposes in the service of humanity as a whole, divided as it is into nations big and small at various stages of social, economic and industrial development.

In a few months time, India will have the privilege of hosting the 7th Summit Conference of Non-aligned Nations. We take this responsibility seriously and intend to do everything possible to enhance the unity, cohesion and effectiveness of the Non-aligned Movement, whose relevance to peace and well-being in the world and the independence of nations has seldom been greater. We expect all men and women of goodwill around the world to support the Movement and the hopes and aspirations of the developing countries which form the bulk of its membership.

Our government and people are engaged in the gigantic task of building a new India. Despite difficulties, we have laid the foundations of a modern State and an industrial society while retaining our commitment to democracy, secularism, socialism and our deep concern for the weaker sections of our society. Your country and government have given us much valuable cooperation and support in our own efforts and I wish to take this opportunity to convey to you, Mr. President, and through you to the friendly people of France our appreciations and our thanks.

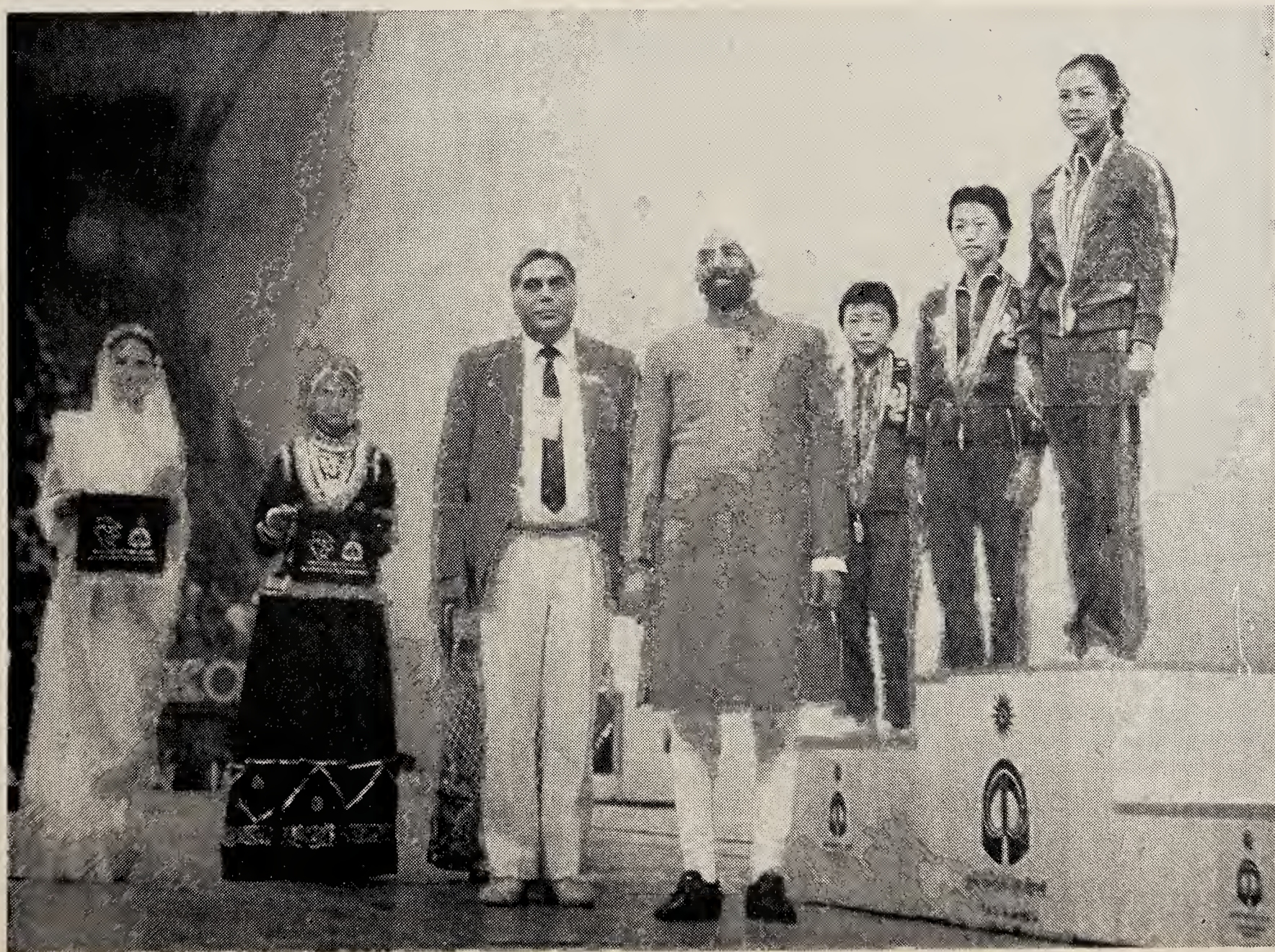
We value our relations with France and the renewed dialogue between us which began when the present government came into power in India. The visit of our Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, last year to your great country has accelerated this process of revitalisation of contacts. You and we have a vital stake in ensuring a more peaceful world, promoting an understanding on key issues and creating a climate of confidence in which all nations, irrespective of their size, location, ideology or the level of development, could live in harmony and realise their potential.

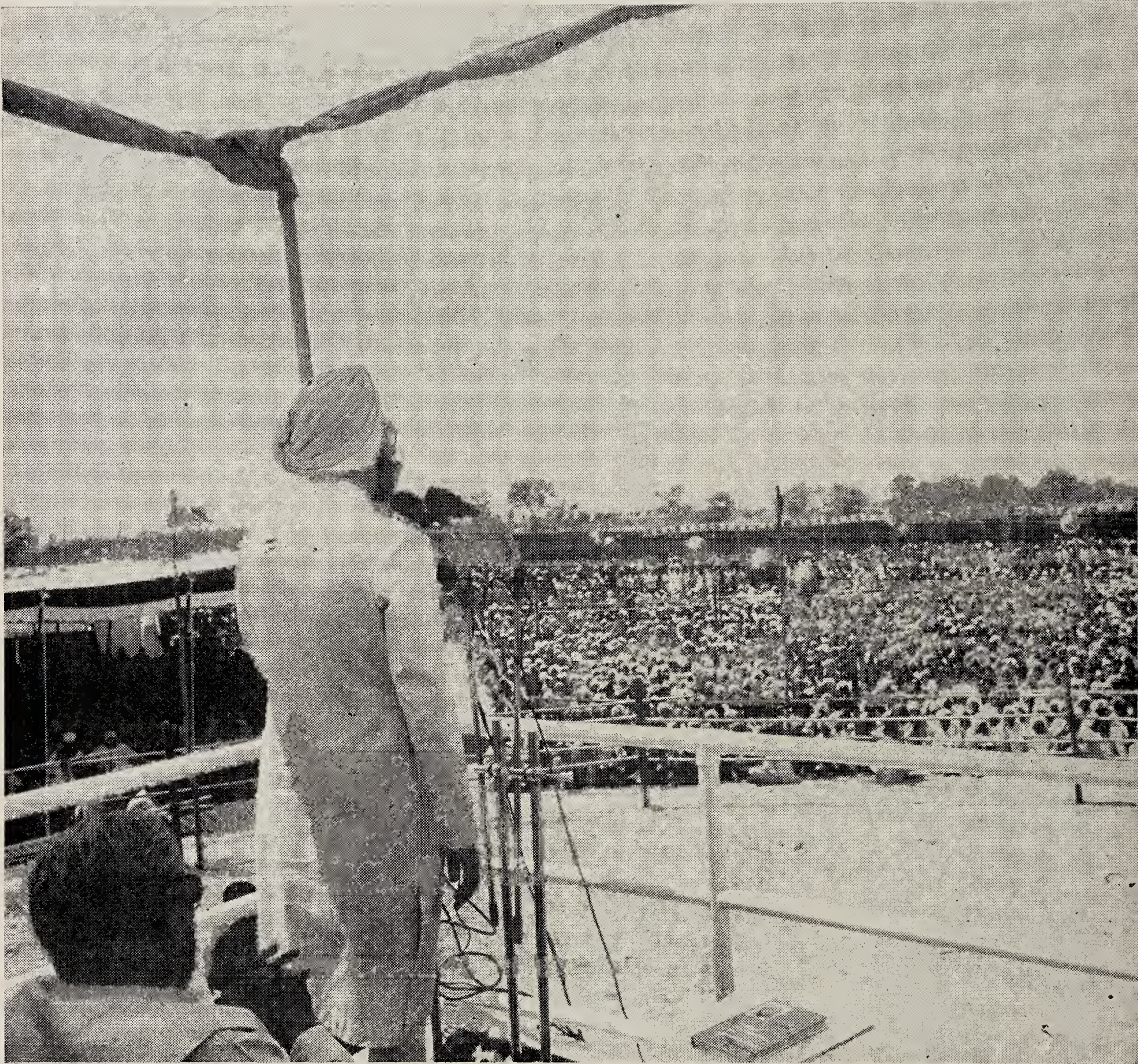
Contemporary realities demand that France pursuing an independent foreign policy and India and other non-aligned countries, should work



*With Dr. Helmut Kohl, Chancellor of Republic of Germany, who visited
New Delhi, November 6, 1983*

Attended an awards distribution ceremony at Asian Games, New Delhi, November 23, 1982





Addressing a mammoth gathering at Jind, Haryana, March 27, 1983

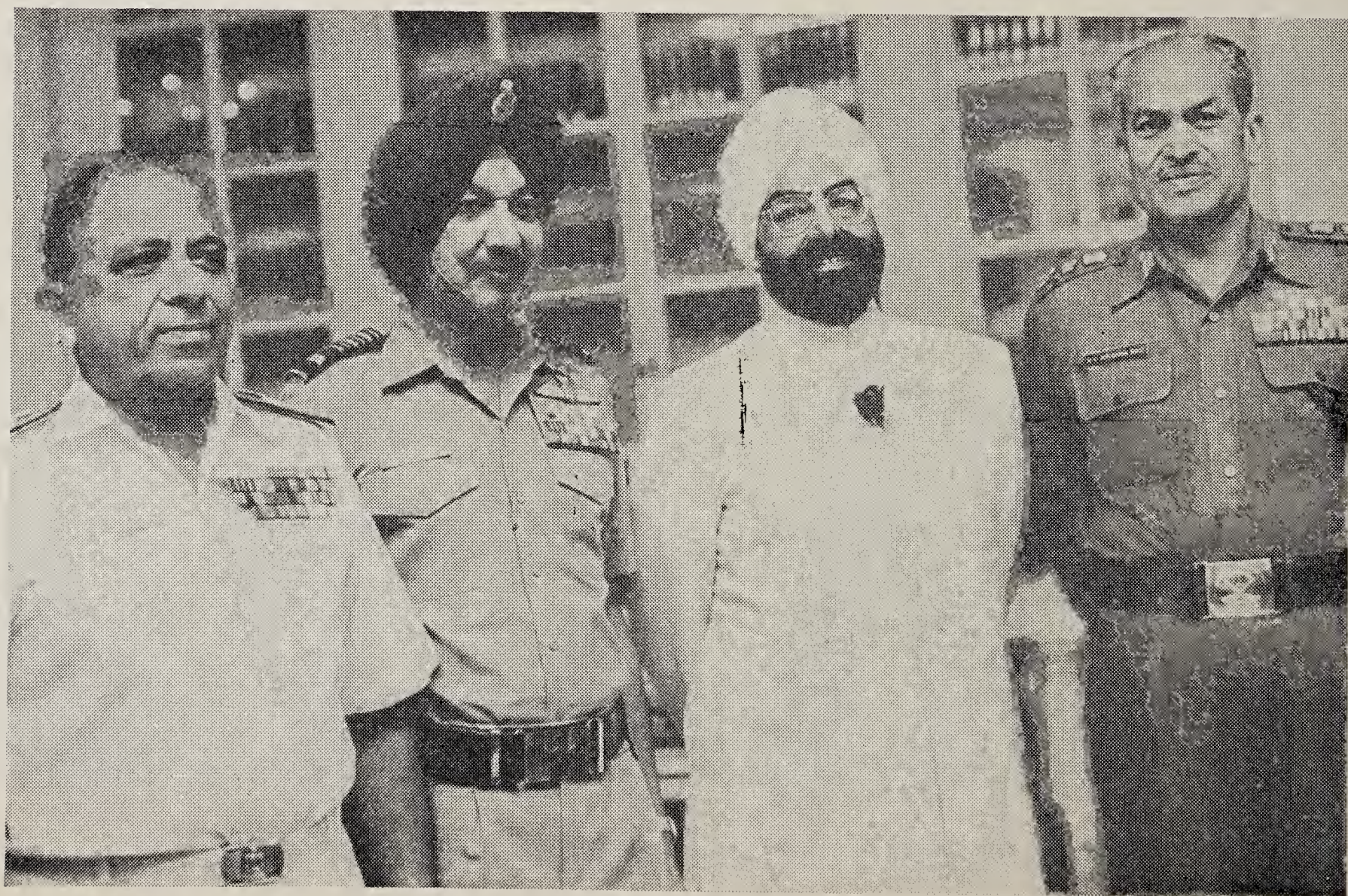


Listening to grievances of poor women of Borbori, Assam, April 27, 1983



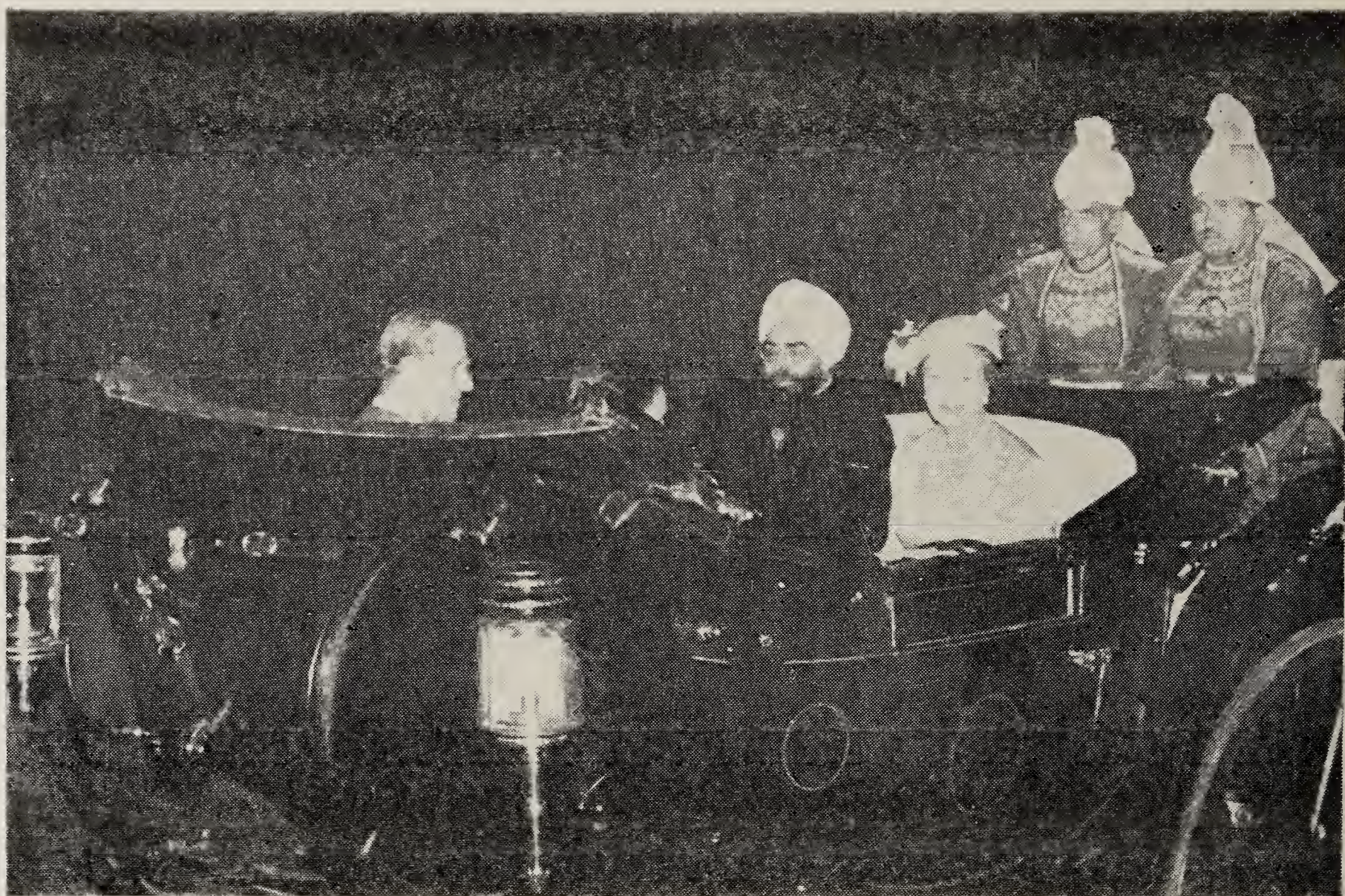
Inaugurated a Cricket Match between members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, May 8, 1983

With the three Services Chiefs, May 5, 1983



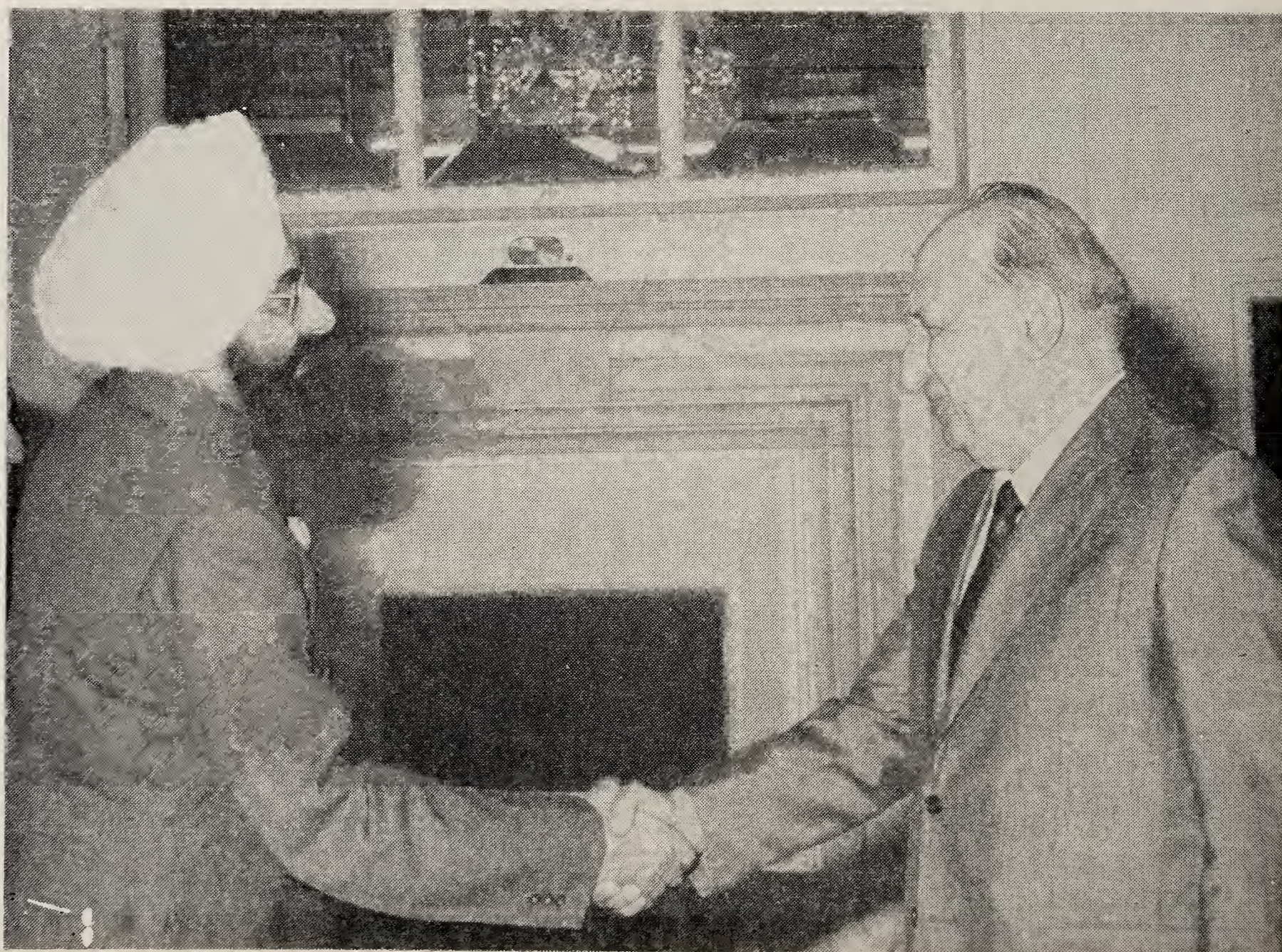


World Cup winning Indian Cricket Team called on him at Rashtrapati Bhavan, July 9, 1983



With Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain, November 18, 1983

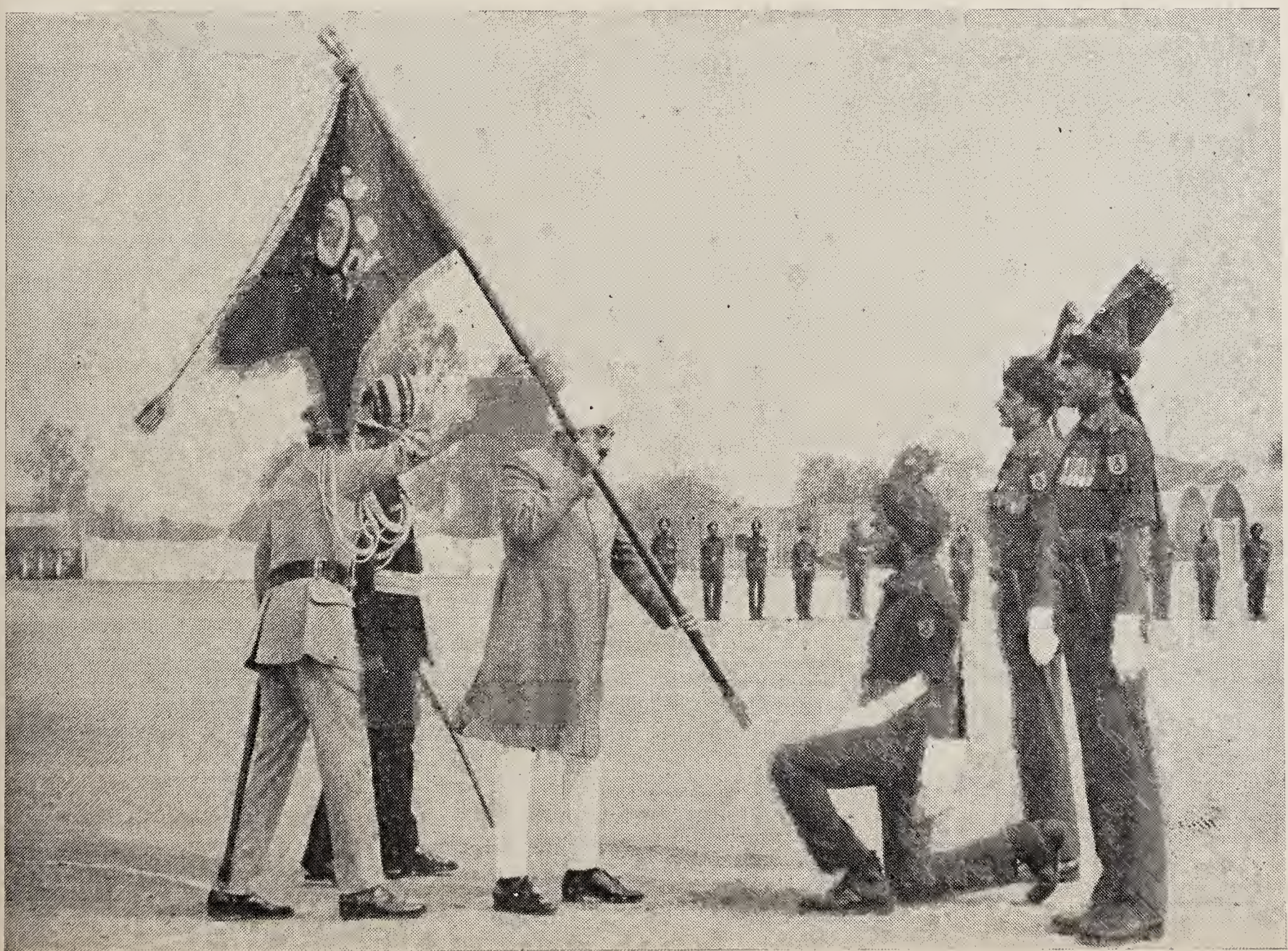
Receiving H. E. T. Zhivkov President of Bulgaria, New Delhi, December 12, 1983





Addressing World Punjabi Writers Conference, New Delhi, December 24, 1983

Presenting Colours to 9th Deccan Horse, Nabha, Punjab, January 9, 1984





Listening to an old man, New Delhi, January 19, 1984

together to build bridges between the East and the West and the North and the South. A new international economic order is imperative for restructuring the whole network of present-day economic relationships among nations. We appreciate, Mr. President, the role played by France under your leadership to espouse the cause of the developing countries in international forums. Closer cooperation between developed and developing countries is needed in diverse fields, such as technology-transfer, development of new sources of energy, multilateral assistance and access to the markets of developed countries.

France, as a seedbed of new and revolutionary ideas and movements in politics, technology, arts, literature and philosophy, has made outstanding contributions to contemporary history. Under your leadership, France's creativity and social conscience have received a new impetus. The ultimate test of a civilisation is not its material opulence or its might but the way it nourishes the soul and its humaneness. I have no doubt that the world will continue to look to France for a long time to come for enrichment of the spirit. India, as an ancient civilisation and a new striving nation, looks forward to closer exchanges with France in all fields of human endeavour.

Mr. President, your stay in India is all too short and I hope you will visit us again before too long. During the remaining part of your visit, you will have an opportunity to see some other parts of the country and something of our traditional life as well as our efforts to expand and modernise our economy within the broad framework of our cultural heritage.

Partners in Progress

I AM GLAD to be here today with all of you and to inaugurate the Afro-Asian Marketing Convention. I would like to express my gratitude to the organisers for having given me the opportunity to associate myself with this important function. The Convention is being organised against the backdrop of the imbalances and disparities that characterise today's world.

The concept and techniques of marketing have evolved over the years in response to environmental changes. Today in the Eastern world, marketing is understood as the art of identification and meeting the consumer requirements. However, I am not sure as to whether this particular concept and the practices that go with it as understood and followed in the West can be straightaway applied to Asia and Africa. The best way to apprehend this subject is to understand the way the people of these continents live and do business.

The continents of Asia and Africa are characterised by many similarities and at the same time by some unique features. Most of the countries in both the continents have had a colonial past and have emerged from foreign rule not long ago. All of them are developing countries, with the exception of Japan. They constitute huge markets with Africa accounting for a population of around 330 million and Asia for another 2500 million. The two most populous countries in the world are in Asia. The annual import bill of the two continents exceeds US \$ 600 billion. The continents are by and large rich in scarce resources, though there are exceptions. One need not remind the audience about the emergence of West Asia as a major political and economic force in the world in recent years, primarily on account of its oil resource. Besides, individual countries in the continents are endowed with scarce resources including gold, uranium and diamonds. Base metals and industrial raw materials required for the development of any country are available in substantial quantities in the two regions.

The challenge of marketing in Asia and Africa demands perspectives that probably are different from those applied in the West. Having emerged from colonial rule not long ago, the countries are keen to utilise their political freedom for economic development. Almost all the countries have formulated time-bound development plans. Their objectives include not only industrial and agricultural development, rise in the living standards, etc. but, more importantly fair and equitable distribution of the gains of development. The success of any business is going to be judged not only in terms of meeting consumer requirements but in the overall context of distributive justice, conservation of scarce resources, ecological balance, prevention of atmospheric pollution and, in general, contribution to the welfare of the society as a whole. These no doubt offer new challenges but also generate new opportunities and new enthusiasm. The ultimate test of success is the measure of satisfaction that industry and business can ensure for the common man.

All the countries in Asia and Africa, barring perhaps a few are engaged in the difficult task of optimum utilisation of scarce resources to meet varied needs of social and economic development. In this task, they

find the external environment entirely unfavourable. The terms on which they have to trade as well as those on which they have to obtain financial aid are hardening day by day. International organisations no doubt are attempting a package of measures to seek solutions to the developmental and trade-cum-finance problems of these countries. But the progress so far achieved in this direction leaves much to be desired.

How then are these countries to develop? Are these countries to be condemned to a life of drawers of water and hewers of wood for ever? This is not acceptable. The conclusion appears inescapable that there is no alternative for these countries, if they want to accelerate their pace of development, except increased economic cooperation among themselves. Notwithstanding the favourable factors one finds that not enough effort has so far been made towards exchange of knowledge and experience and sharing of resources among the nations in the two continents. It is true that there are some examples of successful regional and sub-regional co-operation in the two continents as evidenced by ASEAN AND ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States). However, considering the vast opportunities available we have not been able to touch even the fringe. It is known that most of the products from the two regions find markets outside the regions and the same is true as far as the sources of supplies are concerned. Greater cooperation and collaboration among the developing countries of the two continents are clearly needed for our mutual benefit.

Friends, you are aware that India has been taking a leading part in the formulation and implementation of the policy framework relating to cooperation among developing countries. I would like to assure the Convention that this country will not be found wanting in such endeavours, and any concrete suggestion emerging from your deliberations will receive our careful consideration.

I am sure that this Convention will throw up workable suggestions in the direction of finding solutions to the manifold problems facing the countries in the two great continents.

I am happy to inaugurate the Convention and wish it all success.

Cementing Traditional Bonds

THE WARMTH AND cordiality which has marked your visit reflect the traditional bonds between our countries and peoples. The friendship and mutual trust between us provide an example of inter-continental partnership in a gloomy international landscape where counsels of goodwill are ignored and distrust and confrontation are commonplace.

There have been many official visits exchanged between our countries. Our first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, together with our present Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, visited Nigeria as far back as 1962. But this is the first time we have been able to welcome a Nigerian Head of State in India.

Your visit provides an excellent opportunity for both of us to review the frontiers of our cooperation and share our experience of the past and our visions for the future. We are confident that your visit will intensify the ties that already link us together.

Our two countries are functioning democracies and one among those with the largest population in the world. Our people have many languages, many ethnic backgrounds, and all the religions of the world. Yet we believe in unity amidst our diversity. Our problems of development are similar to those of other developing countries. We are striving to complete our national sovereignty by achieving economic independence and self-reliance.

Ever since Nigeria's independence, Your Excellency has played an active role in your country's policies and programmes for economic and political progress. We admire the ideals which you have brought to the highest office in Nigeria. Your personal commitment to Non-alignment, the New International Economic Order, the eradication of imperialism and racism, and economic development with social justice, are testimony of enlightened leadership. We agree with you when you said: "The world is perched on the threshold of a new and significant decade of renewal as well as change, a decade of challenge as well as hope, a decade of opportunity as well as danger. What precisely it will be, depends on how we make it."

Mr. President, both India and Nigeria are members of the Non-aligned Movement. Our two countries have always been in favour of negotiated settlements to disputes and have been among the leading developing countries to participate in UN peace-keeping. This year India has undertaken to host the Seventh Non-aligned Summit Conference at the unanimous request of the Movement. We appreciate this confidence which

has been reposed in us. The Movement's contribution in lessening tensions is now generally recognised, but detente and peaceful international co-operation are again threatened by the ominous growth of fear and conflict among nations, with the escalation of cold war and the arms race, and with external pressures and interference brought to bear on non-aligned countries. In this climate, non-aligned nations will have to unite in defence of peace, independence and development, and play a more active role in promoting conciliation and cooperation.

Nigeria is the most populous and most economically powerful nation in Africa and exercises a pivotal influence in fashioning the future of Africa. We have closely followed the untiring efforts of your Government in strengthening the OAU. We salute Nigeria's vision in promoting regional economic cooperation in East Africa through ECOWAS and giving focus to the imperative economic problems of Africa in the historic Lagos Plan of Action. We hope that the OAU will overcome its present crisis and emerge with renewed strength and vigour.

Your continent to us, Your Excellency, is a hallowed soil where the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, first experimented with and then refined the weapon of non-violence in the fight for freedom, thereby lighting the torch of liberty for millions under colonialism. It is a matter of outrage that southern Africa still suffers under the curse of minority rule and racism with the most inhuman crimes committed against the majority population on the basis of race and colour. The racists of South Africa commit flagrant aggression against the Frontline States and continue their illegal occupation of Namibia in defiance of the United Nations and the International Court of Justice. We are committed to extending our full moral, material and diplomatic support to the liberation movements of southern Africa, a region which can never enjoy peace or stability without the independence of Namibia and the total dismantling of the practice and politics of minority rule and apartheid in South Africa.

The growth of international lawlessness has been emphasised by events like Israel taking brazen military action inside Lebanon against helpless Lebanese and Palestinian civilians. The Palestinian will be free and can never be crushed by force. It is our conviction that participation by the PLO which is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people as a full and equal partner is essential for a resolution of the problem and for a just and lasting peace in the West Asian region. We believe that any final settlement would have to be based on complete Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories including Jerusalem, the return of the Palestinian people to their homeland, and the creation of an independent Palestinian State.

The situation nearer India also gives great cause for anxiety. The continuing conflict between Iran and Iraq, both friends of India gives us

anguish. The militarisation of the Indian Ocean, despite the wishes of the coastal and hinterland states, is on the increase. The inflow of the most modern weapons in our neighbourhood has escalated considerably the danger to peace. At a time when the voice of sanity is raised for disarmament and peaceful co-existence, we witness the irony and peril of a new arms race and tensions being introduced into a relatively peaceful area.

Mr. President, the vast majority of nations yearn for the removal of economic disparities. Next to war, the biggest threat to peace is economic inequality. Nigeria and India have worked together in Cancun and the New Delhi Consultations. We look forward to co-ordinating our efforts for concrete measures to alleviate the hardships of the developing countries. It is indeed regrettable that due to the attitude of some powerful nations, we have still not been able to embark on global negotiations, which would be a concrete expression of the interdependence of North and South. Meanwhile, measures can and should be taken in support of less advanced countries in the fields of energy, agriculture, food and transfer of real resources.

Mr. President, when India was first among countries in this century to gain independence, our leaders recognised that self-reliance was an essential attribute of sovereignty. We remain dedicated to achieving the greatest measure of independent action, whether in international affairs or in domestic, economic, industrial or technological policies. We have made considerable progress over the past three decades. We are almost self-sufficient in food, and we are the third in the world in respect of technically trained manpower. We are among the top 10 industrial countries and have been able to considerably diversify our technological knowledge in areas like space, atomic energy and oceanographic exploration.

While we believe our goal is self-reliance, we also believe in collective self-reliance in an inter-dependent world. It gives us satisfaction that we have a close and developing economic relationship with Nigeria, including agriculture and several large and small industrial projects. We are gratified that Nigeria has welcomed a number of Indian technicians and professionals to train their Nigerian counterparts. We play host in India each year to many thousands of Nigerian students and technical trainees. Your visit has led to the conclusion of concrete agreements to broaden the basis of our mutually beneficial cooperation. We take it as a matter of pride to be increasingly associated with Nigeria's progress.

Your present visit to our country is far too brief. We, however, look forward to welcoming you again soon amidst us for the seventh Non-aligned Summit.

Ladies and gentlemen, may I now propose a toast to the health of His Excellency Alhaji Shehu Shagari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the people of Nigeria, and the increasing friendship and co-operation between India and Nigeria.

Character Building of the Youth

I AM HAPPY to be with you all at this 86th Session of the International Olympic Committee. It is only befitting that New Delhi which was recently the venue of the IX Asian Games and where about 5,000 participants from Asian Countries assembled in a spirit of healthy competition, should have the privilege of hosting the 86th session of the International Olympic Committee. I understand that only on three previous occasions in 1958, 1964 and 1967 sessions of International Olympic Committee were held in Asia. The holding of the present session once again in Asia is, therefore, very welcome. I do hope that this country will have the opportunity of hosting many such sessions of the IOC in future. You will be happy to know that we have had the privilege of hosting the 7th Non-aligned Meet in this very hall earlier this month. The Heads of State or Government of over 100 countries endorsed the idea of promoting sports in their countries by a special mention.

It is a matter of gratification that the Olympic movement which was revived in modern times by Baron Pierre de Coubertin in 1894 has been gathering momentum from year to year and an ever greater number of countries has been coming within its fold. The movement has a profound effect on the character of the youth of the world. It goes a long way in establishing peace and harmony in the world over. I have no doubt that under the able leadership and guidance of IOC President, Mr. Samaranch the movement will gain further momentum and your efforts in broad-basing the various activities of the IOC will be crowned with success.

H.E. Mr. Samaranch and some of the other members of the International Olympic Committee have already seen the infra-structure and facilities created by us in New Delhi which we used for holding the IX Asian Games, 1982. I sincerely hope that during your stay in this country, all of you will be able to see these facilities for yourselves. A firm base has been created for encouraging sports in this country. I can assure you, in this context, that India will always remain an enthusiastic champion of the Olympic movement and an ardent believer in the Olympic spirit.

I have no doubt that in your deliberations you will pay special attention to the promotion of sports and the Olympic movement in developing countries. We would suggest that the various requirements for holding the different games should be such that they do not adversely affect the interests of sportsmen and women from the less affluent countries. The Olympic movement should not be allowed to become the preserve of the affluent. I also hope that the International Olympic Committee will

make special efforts to promote research and development in the field of sports in various developing countries and would also help them in acquiring the advantages of the research already done in affluent countries.

The level of performance of our sportsmen and women, like their counterparts in many other developing countries may need to be raised a great deal but in the love of sports, sportsmen-spirit, fair play, discipline and observance of rules and the Olympic spirit, they are second to none.

I do not wish to take more of your time. It gives me great pleasure to inaugurate the 86th Session of the International Olympic Committee at New Delhi. Thank you.

Peace and Unity

I AM INDEED happy to be in your midst today. It gives me great pleasure to see that we in India are striving so hard to maintain peace and harmony in a world beset with problems.

But first, my congratulations to the recipients of the 'Unity Award for International Understanding'. It is the hallmark of their professional achievements that are so finely blended with the spirit of peace and friendship. They have been duly honoured by Unity International Foundation. It shows that we are all one — irrespective of race, nationality, creed or culture. I also congratulate the devoted and dedicated team of Unity International for their endeavours in promoting international amity and understanding among men and nations around the globe. My hearty greetings for them on the 20th anniversary of their organization.

The situation in the world is disconcerting. Wars, conflicts and apprehensions of nuclear war are paralysing the world. At times there is complete confusion and chaos. It is indeed ironical that when so much can be achieved through love, respect and understanding, some still prefer to go the wrong way. It is my earnest appeal to crusaders in the mould of Unity International not to ever give up the steadfast road of peace and rationality. Provocation will be there, but we should not forget to hold together the delicate fragments of peace, or else human civilization might go extinct. International understanding is the best way towards removing dissensions and differences.

Organizations like Unity International can surely play a useful role in bringing men and cultures closer to each other. Of course, relations between countries are always first based on state level. But following that,

private organizations and other set-ups have the cardinal responsibility in further strengthening the ties. The concept of 'One World, One Family' is unique and inspiring. History is full of shining examples of great men and women who by their selfless deeds helped to strengthen state level ties.

India has had always eminent personalities who transcended the narrow domestic world and embraced the entire mankind in their fold. At home or far from home, the noble sons and daughters of India have painstakingly rendered laudable service to India's international relations. There have been some who have fought for a cause even when their motherland was not directly involved. This is the true spirit of India and its people.

International understanding is the call of the day. It can be fostered through any field, be it science, literature, medicine, art, sports, etc. To save our beautiful planet from its doom we should realise that there is an urgent need to know each other better. We have to work harder and harder and make the world realise the true value of international understanding. This, I am sure, will take us a step nearer to lasting peace and amity.

To end, I once again congratulate the awardees and the members of the Unity International. I wish them well in their efforts to bring people of the world together by their words and deeds.

I thank Begum Abida for inviting me here today.

Common Heritage

IT IS A great pleasure to have you and Mrs. Gayoom with us here this evening. We have been looking forward to your visit to India and are happy that in spite of your pre-occupations at home in connection with the elections, you were able to accept our invitation and give us the opportunity to renew our association. It is particularly satisfying to receive friends from a neighbouring country. A short stretch of the Indian Ocean separates us from the beautiful golden islands of your country. However, that span of the sea has never daunted the spirit of curiosity and adventure among our peoples, who have known each other for past several centuries.

Mr. President, our two countries share a great deal in common as two neighbours do. From the ancient times we have revered the ocean around us which also forms your environment. We have the common heritage of religions and philosophy. Both of us have a continuity of culture and tradition, of tolerance which form the strong foundation of our societies.

Banquet speech given in honour of H. E. Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, President of the Republic of Maldives, New Delhi, September 7, 1983

For generations Maldives has been a haven of tranquillity and oasis of peace in a turbulent world, which had attracted the famous 14th century Arab traveller Ibn Battuta when he wrote about 'Thibat-al-Mahal'—the Place of the Dhivis. Today, equally if not more, Maldives and India both need peace to develop freely and without tension and outside interference. That is why we have repeatedly stressed that the Indian Ocean should become a Zone of Peace. We are deeply concerned that the Indian Ocean has turned into an arena for the ideological rivalry and conflicts of the Super Powers and we are disturbed, as I am sure, Excellency, your country also is, of the frightening consequences. We hope once again that the proposed conference on the Indian Ocean will be soon convened. Since we have a common perception of dangers and share our concern for peace, I hope that Maldives and India will continue to work together, as they have done in the past, for the establishment of a spirit of trust and goodwill in international relations.

Excellency, our countries have to make up for the lost time so that the life of the common man is improved as quickly as possible. We are happy to find that under your dynamic leadership and guidance, steps are being taken to expedite the process of growth of the country's economy and at the same time to bring the benefits of progress to all the people in the Maldivian archipelago. It is undoubtedly a difficult challenge, as we know from our own experience and we extend you our full support and cooperation in this endeavour. In today's world, which has come so close, mutual understanding and assistance are essential for peace and further progress. We deeply value our friendship and close ties with Maldives which need to be strengthened further, based on cooperation in different fields. We have already identified several areas in which programmes of cooperation in economic, commercial, technical and cultural fields have been taken in hand and I can assure you that we will continue to extend all possible assistance in their fulfilment. We will be happy to share our experience in fisheries, communications, tourism and any other area, which Maldives would like to suggest in our mutual interest. Mr. President, I understand that we have several Indians participating in your developmental programmes and young Maldivian men and women are receiving training in our institutions. I hope that these people-to-people contacts would further grow.

The region of South Asia is not free from dangers to peace and stability. However, through cooperation and mutual understanding we can aspire to counter them. The Programme of South Asian Regional Cooperation, which the Governments of Maldives and India support, has been a welcome development. The first meeting of the South Asian Foreign Ministers held early last month successfully launched the integrated programme of action. This, to my mind, is a good beginning for further

cooperation and needs to be implemented with energy, sincerity and goodwill.

It is indeed an honour for me to welcome here this evening not only a statesman and leader of the people of Maldives but a distinguished scholar and man of letters. In your stay in India, I hope you will be able to have useful exchange of views with our academic and literary figures.

Excellency, despite several odds, we have been pursuing vigorously and single-mindedly development efforts in diverse fields of activity and I am happy that you have spared the time to visit some of our industries and fisheries projects.

Ladies and gentlemen, may I ask you now to raise your glasses in toast to the health and happiness of H. E. Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, the President of Maldives and Mrs. Gayoom; to the prosperity and well-being of the people of Maldives and to the continued friendship and co-operation between Maldives and India.

Tourism Promotes Friendship

IT GIVES ME great pleasure to be in your midst today and to inaugurate the 5th General Assembly of the World Tourism Organisation. I welcome you all to India. I am aware that all of you were instrumental in selecting India as the venue for the 5th General Assembly, and I also know that the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Mr. Khurshed Alam Khan, has spared no efforts personally in ensuring that the arrangements for this prestigious assembly are no less than perfect. I am sure that all of you are well looked after and feel welcome in our country. We from India are truly happy to welcome people from abroad because we are interested in diverse cultures, and on our side also take pride in sharing with them our own. For this reason, I am certain that you will find in Delhi a warm and hospitable atmosphere and enjoy the simple and spontaneous hospitality of our people, while you are amongst us here in India.

Tourism is an activity which can be rightly proud of its important contribution to the growth of friendly relations among nations. Since the early fifties, many countries including India have made strides in the development of tourism, both domestic and international, with many benefits. Tourism helps in bringing about closer understanding, between peoples of diverse nationalities, customs, religions, cultures and social background. It

is this contribution of tourism, which though intangible, is doubtless unmatched by any other activity.

The movement of large number of persons across continents for purposes of pilgrimages was the oldest form of tourism. With the formalisation of international frontiers and with significant socio-economic changes resulting in marked affluence in some parts of the world, the organised system of international travel as we know it today began. The rapid increase in the number of travellers today is clearly a reflection of rising incomes and larger leisure time for the peoples, mainly of the developed countries. The WTO has estimated that there were 280 million international tourist arrivals in the world in 1982, and the international tourism receipts, excluding international air fare payments, totalled nearly US \$ 100 billion. Tourism, thus, is an industry only next to oil but unlike oil which places a sizeable burden on the foreign exchange resources of many developing countries, tourism provides a most valuable source of foreign exchange earnings. In many developing countries the volume of receipts from international tourism has tended to be of greater magnitude than that of merchandise exports.

The World Tourism Organisation, though not yet a decade old, has, under the dynamic direction of its Secretary General Mr. Robert Lonati of France, helped focus world attention on this most extraordinary and unique world phenomenon of tourism. In this respect the Manila Declaration of 1980 marks a milestone, underlining as it does, the vitalising force of tourism to the life of nations and its direct effects on their social, cultural, educational and economic milieu, and also on their international relations. It has indeed been rightly recognised that tourism can be a vital force for world peace and can effectively contribute to the establishment of a new international economic order.

Tourism can become a vehicle for the realisation of man's highest aspirations in the quest for knowledge, education, understanding, acceptance and affirmation of the originality of cultures, and respect for the moral heritage of different peoples. I feel that it is these spiritual values of tourism that are significant.

Tourism has also made it possible for nations to develop strategies for the conservation of natural and cultural heritage of mankind. Planning for economic growth and development must go hand in hand with the protection of environment, enhancement of cultural life, and maintenance of rich traditions which contribute so greatly to the quality of life and character of a nation. The rapid and sometimes alarming deterioration of environment due to pollution which is entirely man-made must be a matter for concern to all of us, who hold in trust on behalf of our peoples, the distinctive heritage of our respective countries.

International cooperation in the field of tourism has been facilitated through the efforts of WTO and has been appreciated by receiving nations. Many developing countries have had the advantage of being helped by this Organisation with technical and financial assistance. Inter-dependence of the developed and developing countries in the field of tourism would surely pave the way for international harmony and understanding.

Distinguished delegates, I am sure that the findings and recommendations emerging from your discussions will form the cornerstone of policies for the future of world tourism. I have great pleasure in inaugurating this Fifth General Assembly of the World Tourism Organisation and I wish the Assembly success in its deliberations.

Call for Global Economy

I THANK YOU most cordially for your kind words of welcome and of appreciation for my country, as well as for the warm hospitality of our reception. I bring you the greetings and good wishes of the Government and people of India. India and Czechoslovakia have a well established tradition of close and friendly relations. We recall with pleasure the many visits exchanged by the leading personalities of our two countries. I am happy to have this opportunity of continuing the tradition.

I am conscious that we are visiting a country inhabited by an industrious and talented people, heirs to a rich culture who have built a thriving and modern nation-state. Your land has occupied an important place in European history and politics. The names of Jan Hus and Jan Zizka recall the historic contributions made by your leaders and reformers to the movement for the emancipation of the common man, and for freeing human spirit from superstition and dogma. Through the centuries, Czechoslovakia has added richly to the world of culture, arts, literature, music, and sciences. You have also established a reputation for your achievements in creating a strong industrial economy as well as science and technology. You have also made significant strides ahead in ensuring the people's welfare. We in India, wish you further successes in national construction.

Friendly contacts between our two countries and peoples date back to many centuries. It is significant that the school of Indian learning set up in Charles University in the early 19th century, where more than one generation of scholars have made original contributions to Indology, has been continued and reinforced in modern times. Our interaction in the world of culture has enriched the lives of both of our peoples.

One of the most evocative memories in the history of our friendly relations is the profound sympathy in India with your country when you were confronted with the Nazi threat. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's visit to Czechoslovakia was a spontaneous and principled expression of solidarity and reflected the sentiments of the people of India.

Since independence, our friendship has been put on a new foundation and our cooperation has expanded considerably in a number of fields. Of particular note is the steady growth during the last three decades of trade and economic relations. The many industrial units set up in India with Czechoslovak participation testify to the success of this cooperation. We are confident that we can identify new areas of economic interchange taking into account the evolving requirements and capabilities of the two countries.

Mr. President, India is also engaged in a major effort at building a strong, self-reliant nation. Our democratic institutions have stood the test of time. We have become self-sufficient in food. India has one of the largest reservoir of skilled manpower in the world today. Our efforts now are directed towards improving the efficiency of our industry, accelerating the pace of scientific and technological advance, increasing agricultural productivity, and ensuring a steady increase in the living standards of our people. Our government is facing this task with vigour and determination.

Our efforts in national development can succeed only in a peaceful international atmosphere in which countries cooperate constructively. The present world situation causes grave concern in this regard. Tensions have sharply increased in many parts of the world. The race in nuclear and other weapons of mass-destruction continues unabated and there is heightened danger of nuclear confrontation and war. There is growing interference in the internal affairs of sovereign countries. Another major source of anxiety is the continuing lack of recognition by the richer countries of the world of the need to reform international monetary and financial institutions and bring about a new international economic order. We are convinced of the urgent necessity of stopping the nuclear arms race so that there can be meaningful progress on disarmament. Only then can we ensure conditions for rapid peaceful development.

India has continued to stress the connection between peace, disarmament and development. At the Seventh Summit Conference of the Non-aligned countries held in New Delhi last March, an urgent call was made for disarmament and a collective global approach to resolving problems of the international economy. The New York Summit level meeting in September, chaired by Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi, was a step towards promoting an international dialogue on major issues of the day. More recently, the meeting in New Delhi of leaders of the Commonwealth focussed on the present world situation and also underlined the

need for a political dialogue in order to reduce tensions, and called for a comprehensive review of international monetary, financial and relevant trade issues. These efforts have led to some progress in renewing dialogue and communication. There is now increased awareness of the need for bringing independence for Namibia, on ensuring the rights of the Palestinians, and on maintaining the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cyprus.

We stand for the strengthening of the United Nations. As Chairman of NAM, our attitude on these issues is responsible and constructive. It is our earnest desire that all nations, big and small, developed and developing, whether belonging to the East or the West, will work together to find solutions to outstanding and complex issues that confront mankind.

We have also sought to reduce tensions and promote trust in our own neighbourhood. We have joined in the efforts of other countries in the region to establish the structure of South Asian Regional Cooperation. Continued attempts from outside at militarisation of the region through supplying modern weapons are, however, of concern to us.

We share many common perspectives with Czechoslovakia on these crucial issues. We appreciate the understanding you have extended to the Non-aligned Movement. Based as they are on mutual respect and trust, our relations provide a model of peaceful co-existence between countries with different political and economic and social systems, devoted to constructive cooperation. There is considerable potential for strengthening our exchanges in different fields. I am confident that our friendly and beneficial relations will be strengthened in the coming years in the interest of our two countries and for world peace and stability.

Your Excellency, Mr. President, I am confident that on these firm foundations, our friendship will grow strong over the years ahead, and continue to be a factor for world peace and stability.

May I now request you, Excellencies and friends, to join me in raising a toast to:

- H.E. Mr. Gustav Husak, President of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic ;
- To other distinguished Czechoslovak personalities present here ;
- To the friendly and peace loving people of Czechoslovakia ;
- To the growing friendship between India and Czechoslovakia which serves the interests of our two peoples and of the world.

Bonds of Friendship

I THANK YOU for your kind and gracious words of welcome. It is a great pleasure and privilege for me to be able to visit and receive the keys of a city which has been renowned for centuries for its beauty, its rich history and its great contributions to civilisation. Prague impresses one with its distinctive character. There is a great aesthetic satisfaction in seeing different generations of architectural style, ranging from the Romanesque and the Gothic, to the Baroque and the modern blended harmoniously. We have heard a great deal about your pioneering accomplishments in preservation of historic monuments. I am told that you have recently restored the national theatre. I have no doubt that this will enrich an already multi-faceted cultural life. This is a tribute to a far-sighted policy which recognises the prime importance of culture. One has also noted your successes in providing modern amenities, in particular your extensive housing programme and the metro-railway system. I take all this as an indication of your sustained efforts to synthesise the old and the new, and to build a city in which the past and the present are complementary elements.

We in India believe that a city must, above all, be a living organism where tradition and modernity are creatively combined so as to uplift and edify the life of the citizen. We attach great importance to the concept of the city, of *civitas* as an environmental system in the widest sense, aimed at ensuring the well being of its inhabitants. There is much effort in India being put into town planning and architecture so as to create liveable cities. This is all the more important in an age when rapid industrialisation can lead to uncontrolled urban growth. There is much that we can learn from each other's experience.

In conclusion, I would like to felicitate the civic leaders and the citizens of Prague for their achievements in building a city which lives up to its ideals. I thank you for your hospitality and wish you further success and prosperity.

Towards Better Understanding

I THANK YOU for your warm welcome and kind words. I am happy and privileged to accept the honour that you have graciously conferred on me today. To the students and teachers of this renowned University, I

Speech at the reception given by the Mayor of Prague, December 16, 1983

Speech at the Bratislava University, Czechoslovakia, December 17, 1983

bring the good wishes of the people of India, especially of the academic community.

For an Indian the visit to a centre of learning in your country is an exciting experience. Czechoslovakia has a special place in our hearts because of your long tradition of dedicated study of Indian languages and culture. As early as six centuries ago, gifted travellers had already begun their pioneering work on Indology. We learn that the period of the Czech and Slovak national revival created increased interest in the Indian classics. Names such as Fris, Wintermitz and Lesny—to name only a few, recall a unique commitment to the study of Indian culture. Apart from original researchers, these scholars also made available numerous translations. Our culture could thus find an echo in your country even while we were geographically far apart. We are happy that this tradition has been continued in modern times. Our cultural exchanges have now been given a formal basis, and supplemented by cooperation in related fields including science and technology.

These interchanges are an essential part of the structure of goodwill built over the decades. These cultural bonds transcend the bilateral dimension and bespeak a wider humanistic approach. The contacts between Tagore and Lesny represented as much a universal as a bilateral community of learning.

The university is a place where a people's heritage and ideals are preserved. It is also the crucible of the future. Ideas that have shaped man's development can be traced to thoughts imparted in a classroom. It is here that the philosophies that guide the builders of society and makers of history are fashioned. In the last analysis, the university plays a fundamental role in shaping human consciousness.

The responsibility of the centres of learning in this regard is all the greater in today's world when the elements that form the outlook of individuals and nations are increasingly complex.

Many of the large political conceptions that hold sway today have their origins in a bygone age with a different economic and technological background. Our concepts of war and peace, for example, originated centuries ago. The number of missiles a nation has and the soldiers it fields are often taken as an index of its power and worth. Instead of being regarded as a legitimate means of self-defence, armaments are being piled up to provide a sense of security which may prove illusory. Today war is unthinkable, especially a nuclear war which can totally destroy humanity. The moral is clear: man must radically change his way of looking at war and peace, and devise new ways to control and eliminate organised violence in pursuit of national interests.

If we take another large issue which is agitating everyone everywhere—that of economic development, we find we are afflicted with the

same antiquated mode of thinking. Development is all too often treated as a linear process by which the poorer countries of the world progressively gain in material prosperity. In present economic conditions even this is not happening for most of the developing nations. National rivalries also distort the criteria adopted for measuring development. The very concept of "development" dates back to an earlier period in international relations when the perspective on the wealth and poverty of nations was different. Today, we know that the world cannot be dichotomized in this manner. It must be viewed as one unified whole which can only develop globally or not at all. The logic of interdependence, brought about in the first place by technological and economic growth thus calls for fresh perceptions and initiatives.

It is precisely this gulf that education can help bridge. The university has a vital function in contributing to the formation of the new consciousness on the major issues of war and peace, economic development and international relations that I have spoken of above. There has never been a time in history when opportunities for endeavour and achievement have been greater. All we need is the will to rise above narrow individual, national or ideological interests and see our problems in their global perspective. The universities of the world have a responsibility in helping mankind mobilise its inner resources to meet this challenge.

Bratislava has a long tradition of higher education. It is therefore not surprising that the Comenius University at Bratislava should have developed into a major centre of instruction and research in the scientific and technical fields. The traditional university, in East or West was devoted to religious and humanist learning, as we now use these terms. Through the struggle for freedom from dogma and superstition, evolved the spirit of scientific enquiry. Many of the scholars of that age strove to maintain the balance between science and humanism. This historical experience can be instructive. The modern age demonstrates with increasing clarity that scientific and humanistic values complement each other; only through science, can the limitless possibilities of the human mind be realised. Equally, only a committed human orientation can save us from the distortions and negative aspect of bureaucracy and industrialisation, from the evils of militarization and war. A university such as yours can play an important role in this regard.

To us in India, the values I have spoken of are very dear. The tradition of popular education in the home and the community both in village and town had strong roots in India. The normal development of our system of popular and higher education was however suppressed by a long period of colonial rule. After independence we resumed the task of rebuilding the system. We have sought to give effect to the values I have referred to first and foremost by ensuring that education is available to

every single individual. Free universal, primary schooling has been provided for in the Constitution. Emphasis is also placed on vocational and adult education. We have also striven to build centres of higher learning—in the sciences as well as the humanities, where knowledge is not merely transmitted but also created. Our universities and institutions have produced one of the biggest reservoirs of scientific and technical expertise in the world. Without them, we would not be able to sustain the pace of development we have undertaken. We have not, however, allowed ourselves to forget that the ultimate purpose of education is to mould human beings, to create integrated personalities with outstanding qualities of mind and spirit. Mahatma Gandhi's ideals of basic education, which took into account the realistic needs of the common man, as well as the vision of Tagore which found expression in the founding of Shantiniketan continue to inspire us. Our schools and universities have been in particular charged with the task of ensuring that the younger generation is taught to reject all kinds of violence and hatred, whether communal, religious or regional and to inculcate enlightened tolerance. We have a long way to go in realising these ideals. There is much that our two countries can learn from each other in this field.

I should like to convey to you all, teachers, students, administrators and others associated with this great university my best wishes for success in your endeavours. Thank you once again.

Harmonising Old Ties

I AM VERY pleased to be here this evening among distinguished Qataris and citizens from my own country. Though this is my first visit to this hospitable country, the affection and love given to me make me feel as if the people and places are familiar.

I learn that the earliest Indian settlers in Qatar, dating back to the middle of the 19th Century, were mainly traders on the maritime route between the Gulf and India. Of course, who has not heard of the fame of this country as a provider of quality pearls to the princely houses of India from centuries ago. I also notice that there are almost 45,000 persons of Indian origin, a majority of whom are from Kerala, while others are from other States.

The great teachings of Islam reached the coast of Kerala in India through the Arabs. One of the oldest mosques in the world is in

Grangannore in Kerala symbolizing the early contact of the Arabs with India. There is also evidence of similarities in customs, traditions, dress and food habits of our two peoples.

Islamic heritage has made an invaluable contribution to the composite culture of India for centuries. Great centres of Islamic learning have been flourishing in our country and continue to do so. The centres of Arab and Islamic learning, monuments, academicians, thinkers, musicians, and poets have all made their precious contribution to India's cultural mosaic.

Even though you come from different regions of India, I consider each one of you as an Ambassador of Goodwill for India because by your conduct and behaviour the wise citizens of this country judge the country you have come from. You represent not only the diversity of India but also its unity which is symbolised by this reception you are jointly hosting in my honour.

While a majority of you are workers, others work in diverse fields ranging from business to medicine. The worker is as much a builder of modern Qatar as is the senior-most adviser because Qatar, under the wise leadership of His Excellency The Amir of Qatar is diversifying its economy to meet the challenge of tomorrow. A recognition of your role and a symbol of Indo-Qatari friendship is the working palace (the Diwan) of His Excellency The Amir, which has been built in the Indian architectural style. This building in harmonising with its surroundings, demonstrates the basic identity between the Indian and the Arabic cultures and the constructive relationship that is as old as the caravan route.

While all of you have materially prospered here and carved for yourself a niche through diligence and hardwork, I would like to convey to you that we are proud of you as Ambassadors of India. My government over the last two years has initiated a lot of new proposals to benefit the non-resident Indians. I have seen the magic of this participation during my recent state visit to Kerala. These are, however, processes which take time to complete and the government through its initiative have shown that it values those of its citizens and people of Indian origin who live abroad and want to keep their relations with their own country open and vibrant.

India has always called for reducing international tensions and for settlement of differences through negotiations. In this connection, the support that India has constantly given to the Arab cause and particularly the Palestinian problem is noteworthy. We have called for total withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab territories and have reaffirmed our commitment to the right of self-determination of the Palestinians and their right to establish an independent State under their sole and legitimate representative, namely, the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

India's consistent support for the Arab world and for the Palestinian cause emanates from principles espoused by Mahatma Gandhi and

Jawaharlal Nehru who spoke out against the injustices to which the Palestinians and Arabs were being subjected.

India has always been advocating regional cooperation as a means of promoting collective development and self-reliance. I am happy to note that the Gulf Cooperation Council of which Qatar is the current Chairman is an example of successful regional cooperation.

India has always been advocating regional cooperation as a means of discharging India's functions as the current Chairman of the Non-aligned movement, we will look forward to the constructive suggestions from the Government of Qatar for reducing global tensions, promoting international cooperation, and tackling problems of economic development.

I take this opportunity to once again express my pleasure in being with all of you this evening in a friendly country. I reaffirm our strong ties and extend my greetings and best wishes to the people of Qatar and the members of the Indian community residing in Qatar.

Ideal Administration of Justice

IT GIVES ME great pleasure to be amongst this galaxy of eminent jurists from all over the world. I am told that this is the first time that a Regional Conference of this type is being organised anywhere in the world under the joint auspices of the International Bar Association, Law Asia and the Bar Association of India, to debate the common legal problems which have arisen and are likely to arise in the fast changing world, with a view to look ahead and prepare in advance for various and possibly drastic changes to ensure proper and ideal administration of justice by the turn of the century fifteen years ahead and also to discuss the ever important subject of legal aid for the under-privileged in general and for women in particular. I hope and wish that the thoughtful deliberations of this Conference will have useful influence over the contemporary process of making national and international laws during the coming decade and a half.

Law in India has been held in the highest esteem since ancient times. In fact to us Dharma or religion is a synthesis of religious, spiritual, moral and economic ethics stipulated in well defined laws in respect of their respective spheres. The observance of these laws was ordained to be observed with full mental, physical and spiritual sincerity. It was because of this supreme dedication to the observance of law that our civilisation and culture

has not only survived all these centuries inspite of political upheavels and foreign onslaughts, but also influenced the people of other Asian countries and contributed towards the growth of human thought.

The concept of law has however undergone tremendous change with the advancement of society from the stone age to the present highly industrialised environment. The journey from bullock-cart age to the advent of supersonic era has brought in its wake expanded human activity enveloping new and heretofore unseen and unimagined situations which demand an altogether new order of social discipline. Judicial system in this modern world has come under heavy strain due to the unprecedented population increase as well as the multiplicity of human activity and other diverse reasons. Laws framed earlier and the judiciary conditioned to a fixed social system are being found inadequate to meet this vast and sudden change. Like any other developing institution, laws cannot be static. They have to constantly adjust to suit the changed situations. But at the stage at which our world has now reached the pace of progress is so fast that it is perhaps impossible to foresee and stipulate with any definite amount of certainty, the legal solution for all problems we may have to face in the legal field, in the not distant future. When full and complete solution to the necessity of codifying internationally, any universally acceptable law of the seas is still awaiting a reply, we are already faced with the unavoidable problems of making law to regulate rights and liabilities of different earthly states in the space. I am very happy that the two international and one national institutions of jurists are putting their heads together to imagine and foresee the requirements of mankind fifteen years ahead and to provide for necessary changes to meet the challenge of the administration of justice in 2000 A.D.

The only answer seems to be a return to our old system of justice in which social and ethical norms were held inviolable and each individual took it upon himself to observe those laws as part of a religious duty. Religion today has been greatly overshadowed by scientific and economic progress. Society has therefore to gear itself to this changing environment. New values and self-discipline have to be evolved. People must be made aware of their duties towards society so that the judicial system is relieved of much of its avoidable burden which can be shared by individuals themselves as under old Dharma — a moral force.

Litigation appears to have become a favourite pastime, sometimes for sheer thrill of it but often for the sake of escapism. Sometimes, resort to a court of law is considered as the safest and surest means to defy law and legal obligations. If the legal field is used to subserve only as a paradise for lawyers and law breakers, it will ultimately snowball into a legal confusion and defeat the very purpose of law. Judges and lawyers are called upon to consider with their well-known sense of responsibility,

the labyrinths of present legal system destroying the very basis of justice and devise timely and suitable steps to strengthen judiciary, as a vehicle of social progress.

The common man today shudders at the very thought of going to a court of law. He is certain that law court means a costly long legal battle which may or may not end even in his lifetime. Usually, the question of getting justice in time is unthinkable. The monster of legal delay is eating up the vitals of justice. I appeal to the eminent jurists of the world gathered here to find ways and means to combat legal delays, to simplify laws and to bring justice within the means of the common man ever remembering that laws are meant to serve men and not vice-versa.

The enormity of legal expenditure is another aspect which needs to be considered seriously. No doubt, economic self-interest is a force to be reckoned with, but the lawyers must consider that this process is resulting in making justice beyond the reach of our people. The concept of welfare state will remain only a notion, if the poor, the downtrodden and the socially backward are denied the protection of law. The lawyers must set aside some of their time and energy to render free legal aid to those who are economically incapacitated to obtain it and also to bring about legal awareness to the masses. They should also help in the settlement of private disputes outside courts, before it is too late.

I am not a lawyer or a jurist like most of you. May I digress to share with you my few experiences with old and new laws. I was in jail four times—once for a period of five years in a princely State during the freedom struggle. In the princely States there was no law in those days in the sense in which we understand that expression today. The law in force was well described by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in his autobiography while referring to the period spent by him in the jail in the erstwhile Nabha State alongwith (C.R.) Choitram Gidwani. Both of them were eminent legal luminaries like you. They were surprised at the way the people in princely States were living without any human rights, just at the wayward mercies of the princes. The Supreme Court of India has authoritatively held that the word of mouth of the sovereign prince was the law.

In the recent past, I had to go to courts because of political reasons, which is part of history recorded in law reports. This time, I had the experience of law and courts at all levels upto the Supreme Court of India, but for the orders of which I may not have been even bailed out in some cases, which were sought to be brought against me. I, along with many others got full justice from the highest seat of justice in India. This is the experience of courts by a common man. It is for, you friends, to devise legal machinery to ensure that process of law may never be used, much less abused, to harass innocent common men for political reasons anywhere in the world.

Another important point I wish to refer to is the sense of neglect and apathy towards the need for restoring justice to women. In a male dominated society women have lived long enough in a state of servitude, in one form or the other. Women are subjected to untold physical, mental and social miseries which necessitate interference by enlightened society. The incidence of crime against women is assuming alarming proportions. No day passes without bringing some sad story or incident involving subjection of women to humiliation and deprivation. No amount of legislation will restore to women their rightful place unless the portals of justice stand up to protect their basic honour and rights. May I appeal to you all gathered here to suggest ways and means to achieve social and moral justice to women so as to enable them to live and breathe fearlessly with honour and self-respect.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that this Conference has undertaken to deal with precisely the same problems which I have mentioned above. I am convinced that law and justice are as much important in the life of man as are food, water and air. A society bereft of a sense of justice is a society without a soul. It is the inherent responsibility of the law makers, law interpreters and law dispensers to ensure that the legal system is not used to circumvent law but to reform and discipline society so that the energies and efforts of human activity are directed towards spiritual, moral and economic upliftment, instead of being wasted in the senseless pursuit of endless legal battles.

The future will vastly depend on what shape your endeavours will take. Science and technology has made the world shrink. Nationalism is yielding place to internationalism. In this race, the legal system must respond to the demands of the highly complex human relationships emerging out of the social and economic activity. It is the duty of us all to ensure that the benefits of progress are shared by all and that the fundamental basic human rights are not sacrificed to serve the pleasure of merely few powerful persons or countries.

Yours is one of the oldest and noblest professions in the world. Many of your worthy predecessors have made great sacrifices to uphold the basic human rights. Many have been instrumental in bringing about revolutionary changes in the contemporary political, social and economic fields. Once again humanity is at crossroads and requires your enlightened opinion to steer it out of its present confusion and uncertainty. Law, crime and punishment require a concerted study. I am confident that the eminent personalities gathered here will suggest guidelines to set new standards for human conduct and behaviour, for the legislature, the executive and the judiciary, with a view to ensure that administration of justice in 2000 A.D. will assure peace, dignity and freedom for the present civilisation, if it survives the threat of a nuclear holocaust which is looming large on the horizons of our lovely planet.



Sharing a hearty laugh with freedom fighters, New Delhi, January 25, 1984



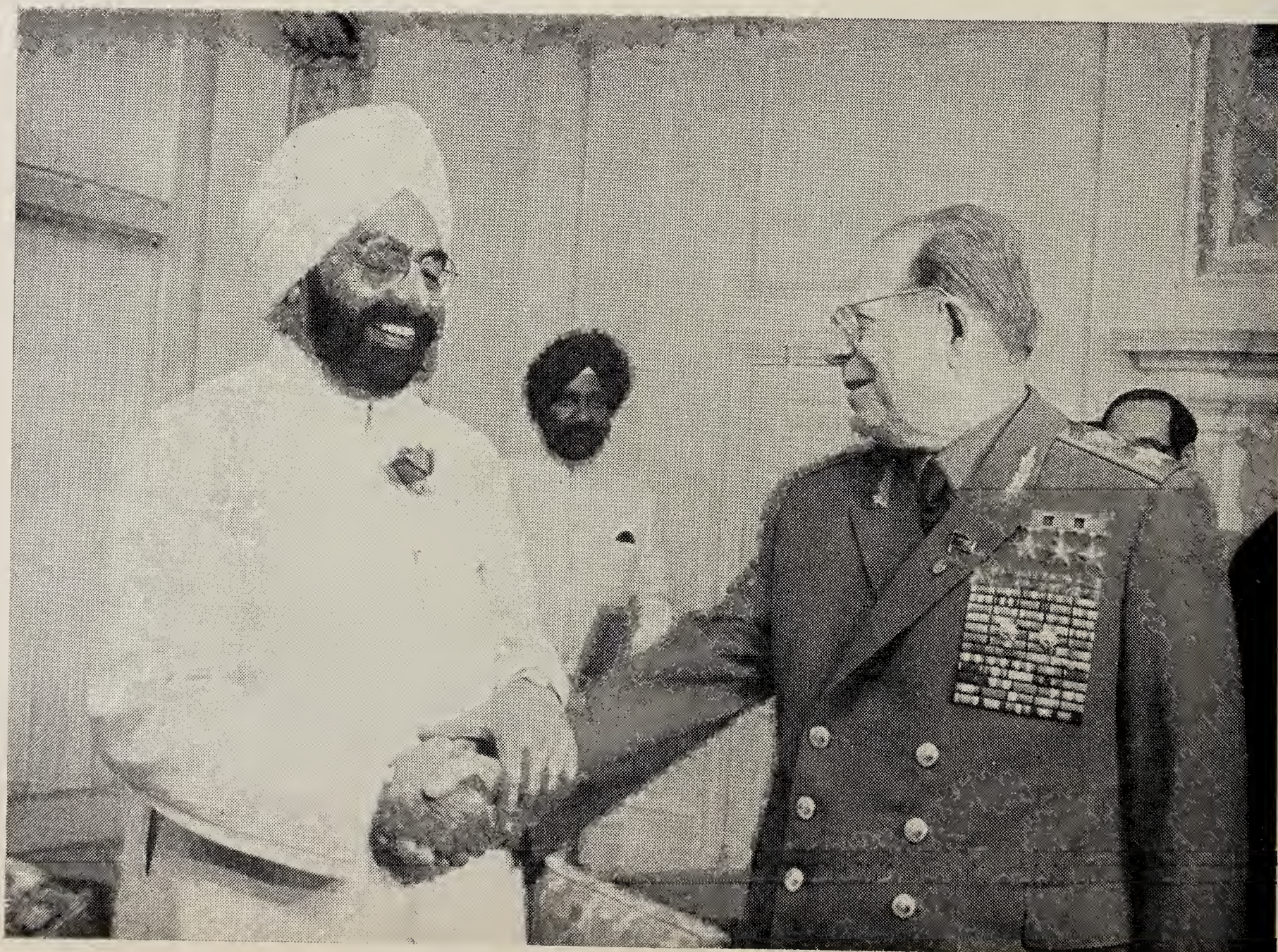
Taking salute at Republic Day Parade, New Delhi, January 26, 1984





With folk dancers of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar, March 4, 1984

Welcoming Soviet Defence Minister, Marshal Ustinov, New Delhi, March 8, 1984



I thank you for giving me this opportunity to share some of my thoughts with you and wish your Conference the best of success.

Promoting Mutual Understanding

I AM PROFOUNDLY touched by the cordiality of your welcome and your generous hospitality. I am honoured and delighted to be in the midst of warm hearted and friendly people of Mexico whose friendship we greatly value and with whom we share the determination to work towards the creation of a more peaceful and stable international environment.

Mr. President, I bring to you, your government and your people the warm greetings and good wishes of the Government and people of India. We in India have great admiration for your revolutionary tradition, your courage, the spirit of independence and the ardent pursuit of the ideal of a more equal and equitable world order. Both our countries share a commitment to the cause of democracy, development and disarmament. Both can justly claim the proud inheritance of a highly developed culture and civilisation going back to dawn of human history. In this tension-ridden world, India has consistently pursued the policy of relaxation of international tensions and strengthening peace. Peace, to be real and enduring must be universal. However, detente is becoming increasingly vulnerable. The spirit of detente has waned and cold war attitudes are gathering momentum once again. Peace and security are equally important to all nations, big and small, rich and poor. These cannot be the pawns in the game of rivalry between great powers. Considerations of their own security cannot be an excuse for interference and intervention elsewhere. This is our conviction; therefore, naturally, India shares Mexico's concern over the crisis in Central America. And I reiterate India's wholehearted support for the Contadora initiative which aims at the resolution of the crisis through peaceful negotiations without outside interference. Measures to overcome economic backwardness and chart out the path of self-reliant progress and development are equally important for this region and for other areas of the developing world. Without progress of mankind as a whole, peace would remain illusory.

Right now tension and conflict bedevil the prospect of secure peace, in many parts of the world. The non-aligned movement of which India is a founder member has spared no efforts to contribute towards reversing this

trend of escalating global tensions and towards replacing confrontation with cooperation.

It is a matter of grave concern that the North-South dialogue is at a standstill. The Prime Minister of India Shrimati Indira Gandhi, took the initiative to convene an informal summit of Heads of Governments and States of both developed and developing countries during the last General Assembly Session of the UN at New York in October, 1983 to find a way out of the impasse. We are aware of Mexico's current efforts as Chairman of the Group of 77 in the same direction and have lent full support to them.

We appreciate your participation in the initiative taken by the non-aligned movement to work out proposals for the much needed reform and evolution of the international monetary system. The developing countries are not asking for charity ; they genuinely believe that sustained social and economic development of the South is in the interests of the developed world as well.

We in India believe and I think this belief is shared by Mexico that it is equally imperative to forge South-South Cooperation in the spirit of collective self-reliance. Much has been said about it but serious implementation of the concept is yet to take place. It is my Government's hope that India and Mexico may give a lead by seriously exploring the possibilities of developing mutually-beneficial cooperation in all those sectors of the economy where complementarities exist. We have, between us, enough technological skills, industrial capacities, natural and human resources to make a promising start and to set the pace. The establishment of an Indo-Mexican Joint Economic Commission is a welcome development and I am glad that the Commission will be holding its first meeting very shortly.

The arms race goes on unabated and disarmament, despite many initiatives taken under the UN auspices, remains a distant dream. This awesome race not only threatens peace and stability but is also a serious impediment in the mobilisation of resources for the world's more even development. India and Mexico have consistently cooperated in international forums to advance the cause of disarmament. We must continue to demand resumption of the dialogue between the two super-powers for limitation and reduction of the world's burden of arms.

In the last 36 years of our independence, we in India have been trying to overcome poverty and backwardness within a democratic and secular framework in the same way as you are doing in Mexico. We have reason to be proud of our achievements through planned development despite tremendous odds and hurdles. Much more still remains to be done for the welfare of the vast majority of our people. We are confident that we shall achieve our goals.

We are aware of the struggle in which you have been engaged to overcome your economic difficulties. I would like to compliment you,

Mr. President, on the bold and imaginative measures already taken by you with a great deal of success in the first year of your Presidency. We wish you complete success in your endeavours.

India also welcomes the recent Quito Declaration subscribed to by all Latin American countries. It is a promising step ahead to translate into reality the concept of cooperation and thereby strengthen the chances of peace, harmony and understanding in your continent. We on our part in our own region of South Asia have given concrete orientation to plans for cooperation for mutual benefit under the auspices of South Asian Regional Cooperation Programme. The first results, though small, are encouraging.

It is indeed fortunate that on all important issues of global concern, the leaders of the two countries have been in touch with each other and have shown readiness to take joint initiatives, should the situation so demand. As two countries dedicated to democracy, freedom, peace and justice there are no limits to our cooperation, multilateral and bilateral for our mutual benefit and for the benefit of the world. The times ahead are bound to be of incessant striving. But our shared aspirations and objectives should inspire us to a united endeavour and to certain success.

Mr. President, I thank you and Mme. Miguel de la Madrid, the Government and the people of Mexico once again for your warm welcome and your friendship.

May I ask all present here to join me in a toast to the good health and happiness and success of His Excellency Mr. Miguel de la Madrid, President of the United Mexican States, and Mme. Miguel de la Madrid, to the welfare, progress and prosperity of the people of Mexico and to the friendship and co-operation between India and Mexico.

Strengthening Bonds of Friendship

I FEEL DEEPLY privileged and honoured by your kind gesture of inviting me to speak to you this afternoon in this historic edifice. I bring to the National Congress of Argentina very warm and cordial greetings of the Parliament of India, of the distinguished Members of its Rajya Sabha, the House of States, and of the Lok Sabha, the House of the People, representing over 700 million people. I bring to you, thus, the greetings of the largest democracy of the Republic of India to a sister Republic across the oceans on the other side of the globe. Despite geography, a

community of ideals, hopes and aspirations binds us together as members of one human family. In this age of advanced communications, distances hardly count.

Not so long ago, on December 10, 1983, Dr. Raul Alfonsin led your great nation once again into the dawn of democracy when he was sworn in as the President of the Republic of Argentina in front of this august Congress. We deeply admire what he called Argentina's eternal commitment to the principles of liberty and justice and have noted his valiant defence of these principles ever since. We stand by Argentina in this battle of the right against wrong, of good against evil, of the weak against the strong.

As a government of the people, by the people, for the people, democracy is not only the best guarantee of freedom but of national integrity and growth. Harmonising the views and interests of different segments of the society is the very essence of democracy. That is what makes dissidence and opposition in a democracy a welcome national input where debate and dialogue, free and frank exchange of ideas and views take the place of swords and gunfire. Democracy thrives on principles of tolerance and co-existence. It is not only a stage in the political evolution of mankind but in the evolution of its very psychological and spiritual make-up. It is a most efficacious instrument of promoting national and international harmony, peace and understanding. We, therefore, heartily welcome Argentina back into the fold of democracy and wish your endeavours every success. May your endeavours in this House be a beacon of light to your entire region and the world and may you thrive as a bastion of freedom and democracy for ever.

India's association with Latin America has a legendary quality to it. *Mahabharata*, the ancient epic of India, speaks of sections of humanity living on the other side of the earth. We do trust that the first wave of human beings came to this part of the world from Asia across the Behring Straights via Alaska, and then along the Rocky Mountains and the Andes right down to your celebrated province of "Tierra del Fuego". I understand that its capital Ushuaia means "The Land of the Morning Sun". It may not be a mere coincidence that in Sanskrit also the word *Usha* means 'dawn' or 'sunrise'. Some of the most poetic and touching hymns in *Rig Veda*, the ancient Indian treatise are to goddess *Ushas*.

The last wave of human beings came to this part of the world in the wake of the great voyage of discovery of Columbus. As is well-known, his discovery of your continent was a result of his voyage for India and so in its origins the Latin American civilisations owe something to the fascination of a European explorer for the mysterious land of India.

Columbus, so to say, unified the globe through his heroic voyage and those of others from Europe led to the establishment of imperial dominions

and colonial empires. These have taken more time to liquidate than to found. One of the greatest names in the history of liberation from colonial empires is that of General San Martin, the father of the Argentine Nation, who lit the torch of liberty for you. This shining example was followed by others and on the map of Latin America soon rose new nations breathing in free air and charting out their own destiny. We in India achieved independence on 15th August, 1947 after a long and arduous struggle. We had the great privilege of our freedom movement being led by Mahatma Gandhi, who fought with the instrument of non-violence. From that movement, India set forth on its voyage to redeem the pledges and fulfil the dreams which the leaders of our freedom movement had cast before the nation. In a vast land like ours with one sixth of mankind living on it in all its cultural diversity and economic disparity, the accomplishment of socio-economic objectives was a herculean task. While there is evidence that grain was cultivated some 7,000 years ago in India, on the eve of independence, there was chronic food shortage and only a rudimentary industrial base. Today India counts itself as the fourth largest producer of food in the world, and is very nearly self-sufficient in grains. This has been achieved through progressive modernisation of its agriculture and development of high yielding varieties, expansion of irrigated areas, larger availability and use of chemical fertilisers, increased adoption of plant production measures backed by strong agricultural research and extension programme.

Today India also counts as one of the top ten industrial nations in the world. India now produces an impressive array of products that include satellites, aircrafts, ships, automobiles, locomotives, power generation and transmission equipment including application of nuclear energy. electrical machinery, construction equipment, electrical products for domestic and industrial use, oil exploration and telecommunication equipment, steel and electronic goods, and an enormously large variety of consumer goods. India also has to its credit the third largest technical manpower, next only to USA and USSR.

In achieving this vast transformation, India has determinedly refrained from copying any particular economic model. It has evolved its own institutions and strategies corresponding to its needs and has allocated to the public sector areas that the private sector was in no position to take up, due to the lack of capital or enormity of risks involved. Both these sectors have marched hand in hand. India has concentrated on the optimal utilisation of its resources through a careful process of planning by means of indigenously developed techniques as far as possible. India can take reasonable pride in the fact that even in years of world recession, it was able to maintain a positive rate of growth, however modest and that even during the waves of world inflation it could keep its inflation rate close to 10% annual.

In this context I must thank your great country for having given shelter to freedom loving Indians who left India in the early part of the 20th century as a protest against British rule. While most of them settled in U.S. and Canada, we have a shining example of the earliest collaboration between our two countries with almost 100 families of Indian origin settling and prospering in the provinces of Salta, Tucuman and Jujuy. They, not only provide an example of your hospitality but also of friendly exchanges between two countries of different hemispheres.

The relations between our two countries must be reviewed in the context of our historical links, our sharing of problems of development and our desire to utilise resources for the good of the common man. In recent years industrial and trade delegations have exchanged visits between our two countries and there can be no doubt that there is unlimited scope for expansion of trade, development of joint ventures, cooperation in third country projects, transfer of technology and arrangement of consultancy services.

Yours is a country with almost no deficiency in human or industrial resources, with a sophisticated market characterised by high purchasing capacity. Of course, there have traditionally been impediments in growth of commercial relations between our two countries due to lack of regular shipping services; this has been rectified in 1983 by a Memorandum of Agreement between our Shipping lines. We have to realise that economic self-reliance and independence is possible only with greater cooperation among the developing countries, particularly among the countries which have attained similar levels of development. We have a trade agreement between our two countries which was ratified in 1982 and under the aegis of this, there is a Joint Commission to review the implementation of the provisions of the Agreement. The strengthening of commercial and economic links between our two countries, supported by scientific and technical cooperation, would provide the under-pinning to the excellent political relations we have always had.

In a world fragmented by ideological, developmental and political differences, it is necessary that the leaders of the world bring the countries closer together and develop a spirit of international fraternity so that the areas of conflict can be restricted and nations do not get involved in power rivalries. We must exercise our own judgement on world issues, according to the merits of each case. These in fact, are the ideals cherished by the Non-aligned Movement. As India's Prime Minister and current Chairperson of the Non-aligned Movement, Mrs. Indira Gandhi said at the Summit Conference of the non-aligned countries in New Delhi a year ago, these nations come together 'not to form a bloc but to raise the voices of the exploited millions through a moral and political movement'. As members of the Non-aligned Movement and of the United Nations, let our

two countries stand together in the forefront of this struggle for peace, development and disarmament. We owe this to our future generations even more than to our own.

Long live Argentina

Long live India.

Environmental Conservation

I AM GLAD to be here today and to associate myself with this concluding function of the World Environment Day. I would like to congratulate you all who are gathered here to observe the World Environment Day. As you all know it was on this day in the year 1972 that the historic U. N. Conference on 'Man and his Environment' was inaugurated at Stockholm. India was the only country represented by her head of Government, the Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi. Since then, I am told that the 5th June every year is globally celebrated to reiterate the solemn pledge to preserve our earth and the environment we have. This gives us a unique opportunity to reflect and review the progress made and to chart an action plan for future. It is our paramount duty to protect, preserve and improve our valuable heritage.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate Dr. Tolba, the recipient of the prestigious Ramdeo Mishra Medal this year. Dr. Tolba needs no introduction to this august gathering. His dedication to the cause of environmental conservation and dynamism in implementing the U. N. Environmental Programmes is well known. While conveying my heartiest felicitations to Dr. Tolba, I would like to assure him of our full support and collaboration in making his efforts even more fruitful and constructive in future.

It gives me pleasure to note that the Department of Environment has compiled some of the speeches of the Prime Minister in the form of a book entitled 'Indira Gandhi on Environment'. Her concern for nature and its protection and improvement is well known. I am sure, this compilation would prove very useful to the administrators, academicians, teachers, students and even the common man and would inspire them to participate actively in the environmental improvement programmes. I have great pleasure in releasing the book on this auspicious day.

There is no conflict between environment and development as the primary objective of environmental conservation is to achieve sustained

development through optimal utilization and management of natural resources like land, water and forests. It is well recognised now that the traditional approach of maximum exploitation of natural resources for immediate gains has often produced, side by side with short-term benefits, some other undesirable consequences as well. Irrigation projects, without adequate drainage and overall command area development, have put out of production thousands of acres of fertile land due to water logging and salinity. Similarly, the flood havoc causing untold misery and loss of life every year, is largely the result of accelerated exploitation and destruction of forests causing great concern. Ours is a welfare state dedicated to the ideal of social justice. Our development plans have been geared to the eradication of poverty and provision of the basic needs of our people. The tempo of development can be sustained only by making it compatible with environmental preservation and ecological balance.

Environmental conservation is an old concept with us. Protection and preservation of life in all forms is deeply imbedded in our culture. The ancient Vedas as well as other scriptures have specific references on the protection of nature and interdependence of all forms of life — plant, animal and human. Indeed, the interdependence of life forms and their mutual co-existence constitute the essence of our vision and provide the foundation of the philosophy of non-violence. Emperor Ashok had long ago conceived and implemented the concept of 'Protected Animals'. It is heartening to note that we are now adopting this concept by creating a number of biosphere reserves, sanctuaries and natural parks to provide undisturbed habitat for wildlife. Even much before the Stockholm Conference, a series of measures have been taken in India to preserve the environment. The National Committee on Environmental Planning and Coordination was created with this purpose in view which eventually led to the creation of the Department of Environment. Within a short period the Department has sponsored a number of useful programmes to create consciousness about the environment and to stimulate education and research in this field. To stimulate and encourage quality research in various fields of environment, I am told that the Department has instituted a National Fellowship in honour of Shri Pitamber Pant, the founder Chair-undisturbed habitat for wildlife. Even much before the Stockholm Convention. What is more essential is to reach the rural masses and to convey to them the conservation message. I understand that the Department has been bringing out posters, calendars and other illustrative materials in order to make the campaign in the rural areas a live and attractive one.

Government's efforts as you would agree can only play a catalytic role in motivating people in any movement. To make the movement successful, the involvement of people and voluntary organisations is a must. I am happy to learn that there is a close liaison with the voluntary organi-

sations actively engaged in the field of environment and encouragement is given to multifarious activities, geared to the same end. I feel gratified to note that the Indian Environmental Society is doing good work in the field of Environmental Education.

My best wishes to you all for success in your noble endeavour. My thanks to the Union Deputy Minister, Shri Digvijay Singh for inviting me here to this function.

India and Mauritius

I THANK YOU very much, Your Excellency, for your kind invitation which brings me here, and for your warm and friendly welcome. I bring to you the greetings and feelings of affection and high esteem in which the Government and people of India hold you, your Government and the people of Mauritius.

Relations between our two countries are so close that I already feel at home in your beautiful Island. We are not only joined by the shores of Indian Ocean but by our faith in democracy, secularism and socialism. We are also linked by ties of common history and blood from the day your forefathers from India set their feet on the shores of this Island. Both our nations are members of the Commonwealth and the Non-aligned Movement and have a common outlook and commitment to peace and development. Our Prime Minister, Shrimati Gandhi's three visits to Mauritius and yours and Honourable Prime Minister's several visits to India are a measure of the closeness of our relations.

I am also happy that my visit coincides with the 150th Anniversary Celebrations of the arrival of Indian Immigration and Abolition of Slavery. These celebrations are a befitting tribute to those brave men and women who, with their sweat, toil and blood, transformed this barren island into the garden that Mauritius is today. We in India fully share your emotions while recalling the sacrifices made and the hardship suffered by the slaves and early immigrants in building this nation.

I once again thank you for this warm reception. I am reminded of a Kural written by great sage Tiruvalluvar "True friend is not that which dimples the face with smiles, but that which make the heart rejoice". Such has been my feelings since I stepped on your soil. I do hope that this visit of mine would further enhance our friendship and add a new dimension to our already close relationship.

Cementing Cultural Bonds

IT IS INDEED a great pleasure for me to lay the foundation stone of the Rose Belle Hospital named after one of the greatest sons of mother India and one of the greatest statesmen of our times. It was Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who laid the foundation of modern and industrially emerging new India.

Pandit Nehru was one of the most complete human beings I have known in my life. He was an Indian and deeply committed to India but his interest and commitment went far beyond the boundaries of India. He was deeply concerned about the problems of the world and was involved with the whole of humanity. Eradication of India's poverty and backwardness was to him only a part of the whole problem of the human race. He dedicated himself and worked relentlessly for a world free from threats of war and want. Pandit Nehru said that poverty anywhere was a danger to prosperity everywhere and peace in the world was all important as without peace no development was possible. The policy of Non-alignment was enunciated by him to promote peace and reduce tension in a world divided into two power blocs. His policy has stood the test of time and is more than relevant today when the arms race has further intensified and the spectre of nuclear holocaust is staring us in our faces. The Indian Ocean which is of concern to both our countries is bristling with increased military activity, and the peace of the region is threatened by the presence of foreign military bases and ships navigating in these waters in increasing numbers.

It is a befitting tribute to that messenger of peace that today, on this auspicious day of Deepawali, we are dedicating this hospital to his memory. Alleviating of the sufferings of the poor, the weak and the sick was always uppermost in his mind and it was for their well-being that he set India on the course of planned economic development. He used to call developmental projects in India the modern temples of India. I am happy that this modern temple, Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital, is a humble gift from the people of India to the people of Mauritius and will ever stand here as a constant reminder of the undying friendship between our two peoples.

Given our close historical and cultural ties, India is keen to further co-operate with Mauritius in all possible ways. I am confident that at the next meeting of the Indian-Mauritius Joint Commission we would be able to enlarge our co-operation in years to come and take it to greater heights. On this auspicious day of Deepawali I wish and pray that our friendship

may grow from strength to strength. May I wish you all a very happy Deepawali.

The Joy of a Festival

IT GIVES ME immense pleasure to be here today on the occasion of Diwali which is celebrated as a national festival in India. I understand that the people of Mauritius also celebrate this as their national festival. The festivals are means for spreading the message of love and understanding among people by removing animosities and differences. Diwali, Id and Christmas add flavour to the life in this world.

Diwali is a festival of lights, illuminating every place which symbolises courage and strength. There is a complete darkness in the sky without moon which is overcome by lighting of a number of small lights. Man attains greatness by his effort to remove all evils in his life. "Tamso Ma Jyotirgamay"—the great Rishis of India prayed—praying to the Almighty to take them from darkness into light. This symbolic prayer is meant to remove darkness from society caused by ignorance and to illuminate the society with knowledge.

This scene of illumination by thousands of lights reminds me of one event. Your forefathers settled here 150 years ago and illuminated the place with the lights of Indian culture and tradition. Everyone shares the illumination of the Indian culture through you. One thing should be remembered by all of you. The light rightly used gives happiness and pleasure to the whole world but causes fire accident when used in a wrong way. This means that any deviation from right path will result in misery and distress to mankind.

The essence of Indian culture consists in the fact that all should live in happiness. That is why all our festivals are full of joy and happiness; the paths of our lives are illuminated with right ideals. We have to share happiness of life among us. We become great when we share our happiness with others. Just as we spread illumination through lights, we must spread virtues and goodness in the world, through right action. This is the essence of Diwali.

I convey Diwali greetings to all of you on my behalf and on behalf of the people and Government of India. May your life be full of joy and happiness.

Symbol of Brotherhood

AS I LEAVE tomorrow, on my way back home. I carry with me the affection of all the people of Mauritius for the people of India. In the last five days that I have been here in your beautiful island, wherever I went, I have been received with spontaneous warmth and love. This symbolises the special and privileged relations that exist between our two countries and our two peoples.

I am thankful to H. E. the Governor-General, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam for having invited me to be with you during the historic celebrations marking the 150th anniversary of the first arrival of your forefathers. Their sacrifices will not go unrecorded in history and not only the present generation but the future one — not only here but everywhere — will draw inspiration and valuable lessons from their lives. I join you in saluting those pioneers — those great souls — because of whose toil your country today is a heaven of peace and prosperity.

India and Mauritius share common ideals — common values — common beliefs and hence have a common destiny. Politically, both nations have chosen the path of non-alignment as the cardinal principle of foreign policy. We are both wedded to strong democratic traditions wherein the people's voice is always supreme. We have an identity of views on most world issues. We both have pluralistic societies demonstrating harmonious co-operation between diverse religions, ethnic and linguistic groups. In a geographical sense, we are a part of the Indian Ocean community. This Ocean, which was always peaceful, has, of late, become the theatre of great power rivalry, which is threatening to destabilise the region. In this connection we firmly continue to support your legitimate efforts to regain the Chagos Archipelago and wish that Indian Ocean be a Zone of Peace.

India and Mauritius are both developing countries, seriously engaged in nation building and in raising the standard of living of their peoples. While we both continue to fight for a New International Economic Order and in this connection vigorously pursue the North-South dialogue, we have both to realise the importance of South-South co-operation. India is happy to have been called upon to co-operate with Mauritius in a variety of economic projects. During my visit, it was my privilege to lay the foundation stone of the Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital, that shall stand as a glowing testimony to the excellent relations between us. In addition, the Mahatma Gandhi Institute, the Prof. Upadhyay Training Centre, and the Subramania Bharati Eye Centre are also symbols of the ever growing relations between our two countries.

India, since her independence 37 years ago, has achieved tremendous progress in a variety of fields. We have achieved self-sufficiency in food. Industrially, we have graduated to being one amongst the 15 most industrialised countries of the world, with an immense reservoir of trained scientific and technical manpower. We have made tremendous progress in the fields of Nuclear Energy, Space, Ocean Development, Electronics and connected fields. We have launched our own satellite; an Indian has been in space; we have designed, constructed and operated nuclear power stations and have established a permanent station at Dakshin Gangotri in Antarctica. Here I would like to make a special mention of Indo-Mauritian co-operation in Oceanography, that is fast expanding. One of your scientists, Dr. Bhoojodhur will join our next expedition to the Antarctica later this year. We stand committed to assist you in whatever way we can in various scientific and technological spheres.

Your nation has also made tremendous progress since attaining independence in 1968, a large part of which is attributable to the untiring efforts of your present Governor-General, H. E. Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam. I am happy to note that the present Government led by the Hon'ble Aneeroodh Jugnauth continues to lead your nation on to greater heights.

Most of the nations in Asia, Africa and Latin America, who were in bondage, have been liberated. We are today living in free world—but it is sad to note that a few pockets of colonial vestiges still exist where apartheid is officially sanctioned. We ardently hope that these people will join the free band of nations in the near future.

As I mentioned earlier, we both enjoy special and privileged relations. Frequent contacts at the highest levels have helped to cement these links. It is my hope that my visit will result in further strengthening the bonds of friendship and co-operation between us.

India and Yemen

IT GIVES ME great pleasure to be here in the Peoples' Democratic Republic of Yemen. I bring to the People of Yemen the greetings and best wishes of the people of India.

It was only last year that we had the privilege of receiving President Ali Nasser Mohammed in India at the time of the Seventh Non-aligned Summit. I had at that time readily agreed to visit Aden and am happy

that I have been able to fulfil my commitment. I eagerly look forward to the pleasure of meeting the President and other leaders of this great country.

Our relationship goes back into deep history. Today this has been infused with a new dynamism and is being pursued in a spirit of mutually strengthening co-operation. There are no major issues in which we have any differences in approach or perception. Our bilateral relations are very satisfactory and have been developing to the satisfaction of both our sides. My visit would however provide an opportunity to discuss various matters and to seek ways and means to further strengthen and diversify the relations between India and the Peoples' Democratic Republic of Yemen.

Art and Culture

Linking Past and Future

I AM GLAD to be here this evening with all of you and to associate myself with this inauguration of the 8th International Contemporary Art Exhibition organised by the All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society. My association with the work of the All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society dates back to 1972 when I first inaugurated the Punjabi Artists Exhibition at Patiala. The Society deserves credit for the initiative of starting a Punjabi Art Gallery in Patiala in 1972 which now is an important art gallery in Patiala and is housed in its own building.

Art and artists constitute the backbone of a country's cultural existence and stand as living examples of cultural aspirations of the people. The work of an artist lives longer and provides a valuable link between the past and the future. The works of art go to all countries and serve as unacknowledged ambassadors in cementing bonds of friendship between nations in the world. The task of an artist is to reflect life in all its entirety without losing the sense of reality. The work of art should be a source of inspiration for further creative endeavours.

The Society, I feel heartened to note, has organised seven International Exhibitions earlier. Efforts of the Society in bringing art treasures from 25 countries under one roof are laudable and will definitely help the people of India to see and appreciate the works of master artists from different countries.

Dr M. S. Randhawa, the President of the Society, has devoted his life in fostering cultural institutions not only in Delhi but also in the Punjab. I thank him cordially for inviting me to take part in this inaugural function.

I do not want to stand between you, friends, and the feast of colours awaiting you all in all the galleries of the Society. I hereby declare the Exhibition open.

Child's Art World

I AM GLAD to be here with all of you and to give away the prizes to the winners in the Shankar's International Children's Competition. Shri Shankar's dream of seeing New Delhi as the venue for an international centre for

Inaugural speech at the 8th International Contemporary Art Exhibition at All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society Hall, New Delhi, January 24, 1983

Speech at the Shankar's International Children's Competition, New Delhi, February 11, 1983

children has become a reality. This competition has succeeded during the last three decades and more, in becoming a forum for bringing children of the world together and perhaps this is the only one of its kind. Its outstanding success can be measured by the fact that about one and a half lakh of entries from more than 100 countries are made on an average per year. Shankar's pioneering spirit in this field and his many-splendoured personality is reflected not only in Shankar's International Children's Art Exhibition but also in the establishment of Dolls Museum and Children's Book Trust. All his endeavours are aimed at the development of the artistic talents of the children of the world. I deem this a welcome opportunity for me to be able to participate in this pleasant function. I would like to congratulate Shri Shankar who has made this most precious treasure for children.

I feel very much pleased at this function as it has been conducted throughout by the children. They have given a good account of themselves and I am impressed by their capacity for organisation and discipline. I congratulate them for this. Here is an example set by the children to all of us to learn.

It is a common saying that child is the father of man. It is from the innocence of children that many lessons in life can be drawn. Childhood is like Godhood as it is an age where there is no place for greed and hatred. The minds of children are creative and artistic. 'Catch them young' is the principle for any successful training programme, be it education, art, music, dancing or painting. Shankar with his abundant love and affection for children had taken up this in all earnestness and the fruits of his labours are before us now. I feel that centres like this should be set up in all parts of the country.

I feel very happy to know that there are in all more than 800 prize-winners and about a hundred of them are present here to receive them. I congratulate all the prize-winners once again and I am sure that this will inspire others to improve their performance next time. It is the spirit of competition that is more important than winning the prizes. You compete for the joy and spirit of it; for making all out efforts to put forth the best in you and achieve excellence. Participation in competitions like this is essential for promoting excellence.

I congratulate the organisers of the function, especially the children who have set up such a remarkable example of organising ability and disciplined behaviour to the older generation. I wish you all the best of luck in your future life.

Fountain of Love

I AM GLAD to be here today at this pleasant function to inaugurate the Daijokyo Buddhist Temple. India is the birth place of Lord Buddha. His teachings have travelled in all directions and Buddhism is a great world religion with adherents in many lands. There has been a marked revival of interest in Buddhism and its teachings in recent years. As in all other world faiths, there are many schools of thought in Buddhism. Great thinkers and devotees often bring into limelight a particular strand of thought at a particular moment in history. Thus it was that the Daijokyo sect came into existence through late Most Rev. Tatsuko Sujiyama of Japan who established a beautiful temple in Nagoya city of Japan as far back as in 1914. After deep studies in Buddhist *shastras*, she felt specially impressed by Lotus Sutra, which she considered to be the quintessence of all virtues. She made the principle of Lotus Sutra the basis of the newly founded Daijokyo sect. Her dream of constructing a temple here in Bodh Gaya, where the Lord Buddha had received enlightenment has now become a reality. This has been facilitated by the generous action of the Bihar Government who made a grant of two acres of land for this purpose in 1978, on which this new and beautiful temple has been built.

Lord Buddha taught us that the way to salvation from the world of misery, did not lie either in habitual practice of sensuality or in habitual practice of self-torture. In between the two there was a middle path—the noble eight-fold path of right views, right aspirations, right speech, right conduct, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness and right contemplation. This was the path that led to peace of mind, to higher wisdom, to enlightenment. These are the values which are eternal and extolled in every religious faith of the world.

The teachings of Buddha constitute an integral part of India's cultural heritage. The core of his teachings is truth and non-violence, and this is of great relevance to the modern world. We are passing through a period of human history when the survival of mankind seems to be jeopardised by a mad arms race among nations. It would be good for the nations of the world to be reminded of the message of Lord Buddha at this critical juncture. This temple, being inaugurated today, will, I am sure, contribute to the propagation of the message of goodwill and brotherhood among the peoples of the world. I am happy to note that there are plans to establish here a rest house for pilgrims and a Technical Training Centre and also to launch other welfare activities. I welcome the President and Chief Abbot

of Daijokyo sect Most Rev. Y. Sugisaki to this land of Buddha who has come all the way from Japan for the opening ceremony of this temple.

I thank the Temple authorities for having invited me here and given me this opportunity to associate myself with the inaugural function. I wish their endeavours all success.

Fostering Spirit of Art

IT GIVES ME great pleasure to be with you this evening to honour some of the most eminent creative artistes of India today. My heartiest congratulations to the recipients of the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Awards and hope that they will continue to serve and enrich the cause to which they have dedicated themselves. In honouring and recognising their achievements and contributions, I feel that the Akademi is also honouring itself.

Our country has very rich and varied traditions in the field of the performing arts. There is our great classical heritage in music, dance and drama, meticulously recorded in Bharata's *Natya Sastra*; there is the enormously rich heritage of our folk-lore, a many-splendoured treasure house which reflects the unity in diversity of our vast legacy. These have to be kept alive and enriched, and the artistes we are honouring tonight are a cross-section of that body of dedicated human beings who have given their life for such a task. Until recently they had the patronage of the royal courts and of the nobility, not to mention their honoured place in temples and other holy places for public worship. But today the responsibility of sustaining and developing these arts and their exponents rests with the public. Institutions like the Sangeet Natak Akademi reflect the Government's abiding interest in the development and encouragement of the arts and this function is a reflection of this.

We should not forget that art and culture are inseparable parts of our life. Bhartrihari holds the importance of these arts on a still higher pedestal when he says, "A man without literature, music and art is like an animal without a tail". Music, drama and other arts are delicate flowers and leaves of plants of human garden which make the atmosphere fragrant. Their upkeep demands matching love and tenderness because these are even more delicate than the fruits and are likely to wither away without proper upkeep and the garden bereft of scent and beauty. Similarly, in the human

society also the development of these arts is equally important to maintain the atmosphere of happiness, love and affection and broad-mindedness. Government and society should patronize these delicate arts so that the human garden may remain in bloom and the society happy.

Artists should be given an appropriate place of honour because artists are honourable members of the society. I am happy that the Akademi is paying full attention to this aspect.

Let us not forget that art and culture determine the quality of our life. Music, dance and drama had once been intimately woven into the fabric of Indian life, be it tribal or rural. The agricultural cycle, the daily routine, the very rhythm of nature, all were vital components of living. Today, in India, music, dance and drama are still active and vibrant and they have a role to play in the developmental process. The Akademi should realise this and I hope it will play an important and meaningful role in strengthening unity through art and artistes.

I am happy to know that the Akademi has plans to document the major forms of our traditional arts through films, video recordings, slides, photographs and strengthen its archives. It is also important that the great exponents of these art forms are also helped and sustained. There are many traditional masters in our country who are the repositories of great knowledge, learning and wisdom. We must strive to bring their experience and wisdom to young promising minds. And do not forget while implementing the scheme to preserve rare traditional forms, such as by including various styles of puppetry which are languishing and are facing the danger of extinction.

I am not unaware of the work that is being done by the Akademi. But you should continue to strive and expand your activities in many new directions. I also hope that the Fellows and Award winners who are being honoured today will continue to serve this noble cause.

I am happy to know that the Akademi is also organising a festival of music, dance and drama featuring some of the honoured artistes of the year. It will provide us all with living proof of the vitality and maturity of our arts, and be an incentive to the many young artistes in this hall tonight to aspire to the standards that their seniors have set for themselves. Once again, let me felicitate the distinguished artistes and wish them all good health and happiness and the fulfilment of all their dreams.

I thank the organisers for inviting me here and giving me this opportunity.

Promotion of Cultural Unity

I AM GLAD to be here today amidst you all and to inaugurate the two-day cultural festival of devotional music and dance for strengthening our cultural unity and national integration.

I am told that the Bharat Cultural Integration Committee, conceived and headed by our former Vice President, Shri B. D. Jatti, has already organised many cultural festivals of devotional music and dance. These will go a long way in cementing the cultural bonds and I would like to congratulate Shri Jatti and his team of distinguished colleagues for taking up this task of strengthening cultural unity.

For many centuries in the past, devotional music and dance have played a great role in bringing about emotional integration among the people living in different regions, speaking many languages and professing various faiths. We have inherited this cultural unity from our ancestors and we must pay our homage to them by living up to their ideals. The medium which they used to bring about and preserve cultural unity consisted of music, dance, painting, sculpture and so on. Unity in thought and outlook was the characteristic feature of day-to-day life of our people. Our great saints, sages, avatars, gurus and mahatmas used the media of song and dance for instilling faith and devotion in people through entertainment. I feel heartened to find that these humanistic instincts are sought to be strengthened through song and drama by many cultural organisations in the country.

The great galaxy of saints who enriched the spiritual and cultural life of India through several centuries were aware of the significance and emotional appeal of music. That is why they always preferred to deliver their message through devotional songs. The identification of Naad or *Vani* with the Supreme Being produces music whose appeal is eternal and universal, surmounting all barriers of language, religion, caste and region. The devotional compositions of saints have become universally popular. It is through the musical voice of Maharishi Valmiki, words came forth to become our immortal epic—the Ramayana. The Bhajans composed by Mirabai are sung and appreciated throughout the country. Saints like Guru Nanak Dev, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Kabir, Ramanand, Tulsidas, Purandara Dasa, Thyagaraja and many others became popular throughout the country and came to be held in high esteem because the message they conveyed was through music. Devotional music has also played a vital role in fostering a sense of oneness. There is need now to revive and propagate devotional music in our country.

It is very gratifying to note that Bharat Cultural Integration Committee has undertaken this very task. I find here that the festival is dedicated to

Lord Venkateswara. I had the privilege of visiting Tirupati and having a darshan of Lord Venkateswara. I feel very happy to find that many artistes of great eminence are participating in this two-day festival. I congratulate all of them and feel reassured that these talented artistes will once again demonstrate their skill and dedication which constitute the basis of our well integrated cultural traditions.

I thank once again Shri B. D. Jatti, for inviting me to inaugurate this festival. I wish this function all success.

Religious Tolerance

I FEEL HAPPY to be here today and to associate myself with this Institute of Religious Studies. Christianity in India dates back to the days of St. Thomas, one of the original disciples of Lord Jesus. Since then, it has flourished here and added a new dimension to India's rich cultural heritage. With deep roots in the soil, Indian Christianity has developed an independent personality of its own—Christian in religion, oriental in worship, and Indian in culture. This local character has been sustained and enriched over the last many centuries. This Institute stands today as a permanent institution, the only one of its kind in the whole world apart from the one in Rome.

I am glad to know that this Institute has made rapid progress in a short span of time. Started in 1962 with only 41 students, it grew into a major Seminary meeting the training requirements fully. This rapid academic growth and excellence in teaching enabled the Seminary to secure recognition from Rome in 1973 and to award degrees in theology. Its growth since then has been continuous and now we have here a Faculty with 365 students in its various courses. I congratulate all those who have put in their devoted labours for the rapid growth of this Institute. I hope that it will continue to grow in future with many more laurels.

India is the home of many religious faiths. Toleration is the chief feature which is expressed through secularism. Religion, whether Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Islam, Sikhism or Christianity—emphasised the oneness of man and oneness of Godhead. The basic teachings of all faiths are based on the divinity in man. They are meant to unify mankind and strengthen the bonds of brotherhood among people. All religions uphold the same virtues and values like truth, love and compassion. It is painful to see human beings hating each other in the name of religion. This kind

of hatred results only in the absence of study and understanding of all religious philosophies.

I feel that people should study the teachings of all religions. That will broaden their outlook and enlarge mental horizons. Then only one will realise the futility of narrow outlook which breeds bigotry and hatred. There is only one God who manifests everywhere. This is the essence of all religions. I do hope that this Institute will strive to strengthen these universal values.

I thank the authorities of the Institute for inviting me to inaugurate the Faculty. I wish the new Faculty success in its endeavours.

A Visionary Institute

I AM GLAD to be here today amidst all of you and to associate myself with the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of your College. It is very gratifying to note that the College has made steady progress over the last sixty years since its inception in 1923. I am told that the alumni of this College include many prominent persons who distinguished themselves in public life and contributed to the all round progress of the State.

Your College acquired a stature and an individuality of its own, while it was in the erstwhile Hyderabad State of Nizam. The Vande Mataram movement, which swept the Nizam's State in 1938, originated in the hostel of this College. It is very necessary to perpetuate the memory of that great event and I am glad that the new Auditorium will be named after the Vande Mataram movement. Students belonging to all parts of the country played remarkable role in our national freedom struggle. Young in age and fresh in thought, students plunged into the freedom struggle in large numbers in all parts of the country. It was the concept of Bharata Mata, the sense of belonging to one country, that inspired countless students in the whole country to participate in the freedom struggle. They kept the light burning during those momentous years in country's history.

Our country has made all round progress over the last three decades since independence in 1947 and today it occupies a prominent place in the comity of nations. A sound infrastructure has been established to enable the country to achieve a self-sustained growth. We have made significant progress in the field of education with emphasis on the programme of universalisation of elementary education. We have to consolidate the gains already made, while making onward march at the same time.

Our engineers, doctors, technologists and other skilled persons are working in many parts of the world, bringing fame for the country. We are proud of them and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them all for their contributions. It is also worth mentioning that some of our people who settled abroad like Dr Hargovind Khurana and Dr Chandrasekhar have won the Nobel Prize and distinguished themselves throughout the world.

Our country is now engaged in a struggle against poverty, hunger, disease and ignorance. Concerted efforts on a sustained basis are being made to eradicate these evils. A complete victory in this battle alone will ensure stability and peace and strengthen our hard-won freedom. You have a great responsibility in this movement and I am sure that all of you students, will gladly undertake to work for the unity of the country and strengthen our nationhood. Educational institutions have a great role to play in this effort. When I say this I have teachers and students in view particularly. They have to carry forward the quest for learning and strengthen the moral and intellectual foundation of development. If the lights stop to burn today in educational institutions they will stop to burn in fields and factories, and the whole process of progress will receive a set back. It is your primary responsibility to keep the lights burning and contribute your share to the country's progress.

I thank the College authorities for inviting me here today and to inaugurate the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of this College. I wish the College continued success in future.

Enriching Great Heritage

I AM HAPPY to be here amidst you all this evening. At the outset, I congratulate the Master-craftspersons for winning the National Awards. I am confident that this national recognition of their services to handicrafts will instil greater zeal in them and inspire them towards further artistic perfection. I feel that it is also their bounden duty to train younger artisans so as to pass on the traditions of Indian handicrafts to the younger generation.

Our handicrafts from times immemorial have been an integral part of our culture. Countless sacrifices have been made over the centuries by our traditional artisans to preserve and enrich the great heritage. They have made tremendous contribution to make life richer and more creative. The

oneness of India and bonds of unity are more clearly manifested in our wide variety of handicrafts throughout the country.

The handicrafts are very important for our rural economy providing livelihood to millions of artisans. However more we may introduce big industries and build towns and townships, real India will remain in the villages for a long time to come. There is also a view fast developing in the world that small close-knit rural communities may provide the long term answer to the problems posed by pollution and other concomitant evils of a highly industrialised society. Fortunately the choice before us in India is easy as we are late comers to the process of industrialisation in the world. Along with industrialisation we can vastly develop our cottage and rural industries also.

Our craftsmen and weavers have won admiration and prestige for our country since ancient times. Specimens of their workmanship adorn the houses of all sections of our people and have also found their way to different parts of the world. For centuries our crafts were the backbone of the Indian economy. Their contribution in keeping alive our cultural heritage and supporting the economy of today's India is not of less consequence.

The threat to handicrafts comes from synthetic materials that are flooding the market. The urge for imitation and for new patterns of living is threatening the very survival not only of the old ways and of traditional articles, but even unfortunately of the instinctive good taste and the pride in achievement which was the hallmark of our artisans. This need not be so. Nothing can survive merely because it is traditional. It must have meaning and utility to contemporary society. Some handicrafts, by their very nature, may be luxury items. But there are many others that are relevant to our lives. While the country moves forward to modernity, we must remain profoundly Indian through giving concrete expression to the spirit of arts through handicrafts.

Thanks to the organisational efforts over the last many years, handicrafts and their production and marketing have been well organised on sound management lines. I understand that their exports have touched a level of over 1300 crores of rupees per year. Now is the time for us to pause and think about the direction in which we should move forward if our traditional artistic skills have to progress further in the global context. On the one hand, there is danger of degeneracy in traditional art forms and on the other there is the problem of making the craftsman to stand on his own with adequate earnings and necessary inspiration. I am happy to know that the Government accepted this twin challenge with an utmost urgency so as to enable our traditional crafts to play their worthy role in the fast changing environment of modern India. The All India Handlooms and Handicrafts Board is imparting a new dynamism and direction to the development of our crafts and for the betterment of our artisan community. The great Festival of India con-

ducted last year in Britain has added a new dimension to the realm of arts and crafts of India.

The National Awards for Master-craftsmen instituted by the Government have played a key role in inspiring craftsmen to aim high and attain excellence in their fields. This national recognition needs to be supported by sustained efforts to identify the problems faced by them and to devise solutions. In this context, I am happy to note that the Central and State Governments have been taking steps to meet these constantly changing requirements.

It gives me pleasure to know that the Department of Handicrafts implemented a number of programmes and schemes to ensure higher standards of living for our craftsmen, for expanding markets both within the country and in overseas, and for preserving the great craft heritage of our country.

Before concluding, I would like once again to congratulate the Award winners. I wish our handicrafts industry continued prosperity. I thank the Ministry of Commerce and the All India Handicrafts Board for inviting me to this function.

Spiritual Luminary

THE WARM WELCOME accorded to me really overwhelms me. I acknowledge my indebtedness to the Ashram authorities for having given me an opportunity to visit this place hallowed by its association with the sacred name of Sri Ramakrishna, a spiritual stalwart of modern India. The illuminated soul of Sri Ramakrishna belongs to all humanity, cutting across divisions of race, religion and country. I also deem it a great privilege to have been invited to address his public gathering on the Vivekananda Playground and Bidhan Chandra Pavilion. The Playground bears the holy name of Swami Vivekananda—the rebel Monk of India, that great visionary and luminary, who preached and practised the gospel of universal love and of the ideal of service to suffering humanity. The Pavilion bears the memory of another giant amongst men, late Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, who is the builder of modern West Bengal.

The Sundarbans region is admittedly one of the most backward areas in the country with its curse of crushing poverty, colossal illiteracy, transport bottleneck, economic stagnation and a host of other ills. I am glad to note that the Swamijis of Nimpith Sri Ramakrishna Ashram are actively engaged in bringing about economic and educational betterment of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people of the Sundarbans and are

thus putting into actual practice the ideal and philosophy of Sri Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda. It fills me with great joy to learn that Nimpith Sri Ramakrishna Ashram is treating rural uplift work amongst the backward people as an article of their living faith in their day-to-day activities. May such activities spread and expand in doing justice to the hitherto oppressed rural people. As India's teeming millions live in the villages, prosperity of India is indissolubly bound up with regeneration of rural life. Nimpith village, where the Ashram is situated, tells the fascinating story of how a slumberous village has responded to the stirring call for regeneration within the short span of a few years.

I feel myself honoured by having been called upon to inaugurate today the Dairy Project with Artificial Insemination Facilities for the Sundarban farmers and the Medical Interns' Government Hostel Building. The Dairy Project is a big landmark in the Agro-Livestock configuration of the area. While the Medical Interns' Hostel is attached to Nimpith Sri Ramakrishna Primary Health Centre for field training of the Medical Under-graduates, the Hostel is understood to be simultaneously linked with the Nilratan Sarkar Medical College in Calcutta for expert advice to the Neo-Medicos by the Medical Professors of the said College. This would inevitably lead to expansion of medical facilities for the common run of patients from the Sundarban area.

The small and marginal farmers and the poor fishermen of the backward Sundarban area constitute the hard core of the chronically unemployed and exploited people. I am glad to know that the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, set up at Nimpith by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, has been imparting training to the farmers' sons and the Marketing Centre, established at Nimpith with funds sanctioned by PADI (People's Action for Development, India), New Delhi, is rescuing the primary producers and the fishermen from the clutches of the middlemen. These two linked projects have ushered in a new awakening, confidence and hope and would give fresh vigour to the rural economy.

We must follow the teachings of the great saints and sages of India so that we may tread the path of love and justice by shunning the path of injustice and violence. Tolerance has been our mainstay in our survival through the ages. Our prophets and reformers have repeatedly drawn our attention to the lofty concept of Mother India. From Kashmir to Cape Comorin and from Gujarat to Assam, we are one nation despite all the differences in our dress, food, religion and language. This feeling of oneness must be strengthened through constructive activities such as being undertaken here.

God wants us to look ahead. That is why He has not provided any eye on the back of the head. Let us forge ahead with firm faith in our destiny so as to make our motherland economically strong, powerful and

self-reliant. I am pleased to find that Nimpith village provides an ideal growth centre under the inspiring leadership of the Ashram, which advocates pursuit of national prosperity with moral grandeur. I wish there would be many more such centres all over the country.

Let me again heartily thank the Swamijis of the Ashram and others for having given me an opportunity to come to this picturesque place and to perform the inauguration ceremonies. May the Sundarbans travel from backwardness to plenty and prosperity.

Revival of Holy Message

I AM GLAD to be here today and to associate myself with this International Seminar by the Atisha Dipankar Millennium Celebrations Committee. Hailing from a village in Bengal a thousand years ago, Atisha Dipankar son of India rendered signal services for the spread and revival of the message of Buddha in many parts of the world. This message was basically one of peace, fraternity and non-violence. It was his deep concern for suffering humanity that led Buddha to give his message of love and non-violence to all mankind. This concern also motivated Atisha Dipankar Srijnan to embrace Buddhism and take upon himself the mission of interpreting and popularising the Buddha's message not only within India but also outside.

It is not easy to estimate his contribution to the spread and revival of Buddhism. Not content with his schooling in Buddhist philosophy in India, particularly in the great University of Nalanda, he went to Suvarna Dwipa for further studies. Suvarna Dwipa was a famous centre of Buddhist education and culture in those days. There he came in contact with Buddhist scholars from various South-Asian countries, as well as China. He then visited Sri Lanka where he was acclaimed by Buddhist monks as the greatest authority in Buddhist Philosophy. He then returned to India and stayed for a few years, before going over to Tibet on the invitation of the King of Tibet. The last years of his life were spent in Tibet. The crowning achievement of Atisha Dipankar consists, perhaps, in his interpretation of the then rival Buddhist schools of thought as complementary, not contradictory. This synthesis became his permanent contribution to the Buddhist religion. I am told that it was for this unique contribution that Tibetan monks and scholars gave him the title 'Atisha'; since then he came to be known as Atisha Dipankar Srijnan.

In those far off days, India played a vital role in spreading the message of Buddha, peace, compassion, love and affection — through great preachers like Atisha Dipankar. In our own times we have had the good fortune to have Mahatma Gandhi give us the same message of non-violence and human brotherhood. This is the message which India is striving now to spread in the present-day world, full of tensions caused by super-power rivalries, and arms race. Hatred, jealousy, anger, dogmatism, spirit of domination and lack of tolerance — these are the basic defects which give rise to tensions in the world. The non-aligned movement now headed by our Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, is in a way, doing the same work for humanity as was done by Atisha Dipankar centuries back.

It is very gratifying to know that the Atisha Dipankar Srijnan Millennium Celebrations and Committee have undertaken the task of reviving to the public mind the inspiring life and teachings of Atisha Dipankar, which have a great relevance today.

With these few words, I thank Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Union Finance Minister and the Atisha Dipankar Millennium Celebrations Committee for inviting me here and enabling me to participate in this function.

Abode of Enlightenment

IT IS A matter of immense pleasure for me to have been invited to participate in the Buddha Jayanti Celebrations organised here today by the Ladakh Buddhist Vihara. On this full-moon night of Vaishaka, 2528 years ago, Lord Buddha was born in Lumbini in a royal family. It was a rare coincidence that Lord Buddha also attained enlightenment on this very day and passed into Mahaparinirvan on the same Purnima day. For this rare triple coincidence associated with Lord Buddha's life, this day is rightly known as a thrice-blessed day. Moreover, the fact that Lord Buddha was born in India, it is natural that our great country is having a visible impact of his lofty teachings not only on our national affairs but on our international relations as well. That Ashok Chakra, the wheel of righteousness, adorns our national flag, is in keeping with India's avowed professions of peace, tranquility and fraternity.

As you are aware, Lord Buddha had discovered that pain and suffering were the fundamental facts of life. Though a Prince having at his disposal all conceivable comforts of life, he renounced the world at an early age to discover the cause of pain and the means to seek deliverance from it. After

attaining enlightenment, he showed the path of overcoming suffering to his followers through right understanding, right thought, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindedness and right concentration.

Lord Buddha's attitude towards all things was scientific. He did not like his followers to accept his preachings without examining them dispassionately and accepting them unless they felt satisfied. As he was concerned with removal of suffering, he laid emphasis on ethics, humanism, wisdom, loving compassion and fraternity. His teachings which were, until recently, confined to the East are now fast spreading to the West.

The code of conduct laid by Lord Buddha is not confined to laymen only but is applicable to the conduct of international relations as well. It was in this context that the concept of Panchsheela was initiated in international relations by India's illustrious first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The Panchsheela, as propounded by Lord Buddha, is aimed at inculcating a spirit of goodwill, fraternity and restraint. It also aims at living an austere and a middle path life and one being mindful with regard to our duties and responsibilities towards fellow human beings. Panchsheela, if adhered to in the right spirit, could guarantee national integration, communal harmony and universal peace.

The time-tested teachings of Lord Buddha are more relevant during the present troubled times than they were ever before. The world today is on the brink of a total disaster and adherence to Lord Buddha's teachings of peace, tranquility and fraternity alone can avert such an imminent disaster. Therefore, on this blessed day the best homage we could pay to Lord Buddha would be to re-dedicate ourselves to his teachings of peace, love, compassion and fraternity, by appealing to people at national and international levels to strive for a national and international order where peace, love and fraternal relations prevail.

I thank Venerable Kushok Bakula for inviting me to this function.

Follow Righteous Path

HOLY CONGREGATION WHO are in attendance before the most respected Guru Granth Sahib, I have been able to pay obeisance at the holy Harimandir Sahib — a shrine dedicated by Guru Arjan Devji. I am also grateful to the five Singh Saheban, with whom I was able to exchange views. In the past three years, there have been a lot of unfortunate happenings. These caused anguish to all Gursikhs, all devotees of the

Guru and all righteous beings; such happenings may never recur. For this we seek strength from the Almighty. Those lines of the great Guru Gobind Singh come to my mind which he, pointing at the congregation and the people, had uttered that :

By the blessing of thee (sangat)
Am I exalted,
Millions like me do otherwise
In humbleness abide.

(Guru Gobind Singh)

If my Guru, Gobind Singh quotes thus, then we, who are like mere dust he trod on, cannot speak more sagaciously than :

Thou knowest what would be our state without
thee, O True Guru
We would have tottered about, helplessly,
without Thy support,
O Blessed Thou, who has raised us, worms,
to Thy own state,
Blessed, Blessed, is Almighty
meeting whom all our woes depart.

(Gauri Bhairon M. 4 p. 167)

On the Punj Piaras now rests the very heavy responsibility of the Panth. I am also holding such an office that I am in a totally non-partisan position. For me all citizens of this country are equal. This too is the teaching of Guru Nanak Dev that it is the duty of a Gursikh to bear his cross. Guru Amar Dass also quotes :

O my eyes, the Lord put His light in ye,
So see not another without the Lord
Ye, see not another and keep only
Your Lord before Ye.
This world that ye see
Is the Manifestation of the Lord.

(Ramkali M. 3-Anand SGG Sahib p. 922)

It was the tenth Guru who directed to us to pay obeisance to Guru Granth Sahib, in which are couched thoughts of earlier Gurus. We must now follow the tenth Guru's teachings. I believe that these Punj Piaras will be able to mend the fissures and I also assure the gathering that I would also exert my utmost to do likewise.

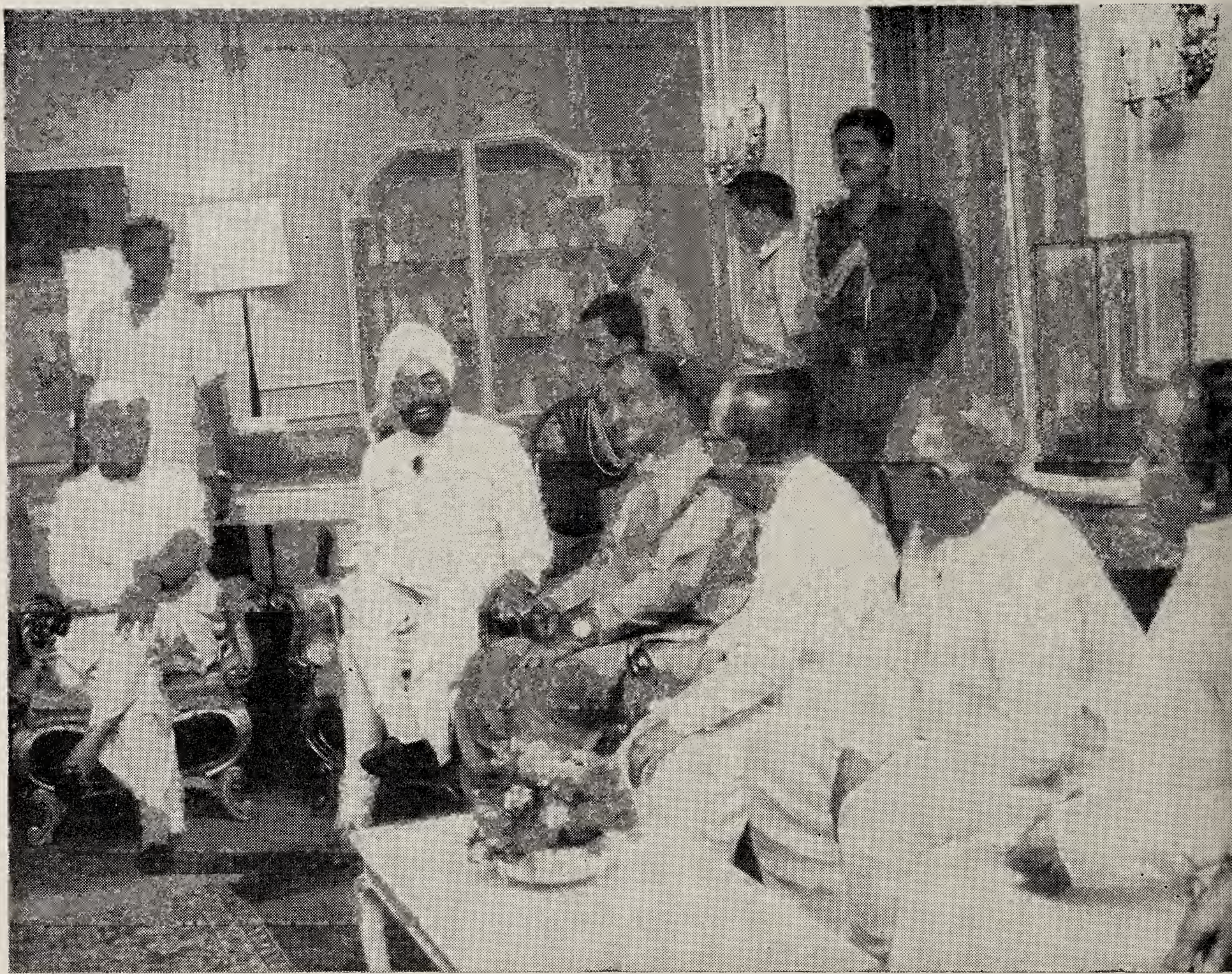
When I had last visited this shrine I was under emotional strain. I said a silent prayer here that though it was not for me to criticise or praise. I was distressed having to witness such unhappy events that had transpired both outside the holy shrines as well as inside. I also sought forgiveness of the God Almighty quoting to myself the following lines by which I have always steadfastly stood :



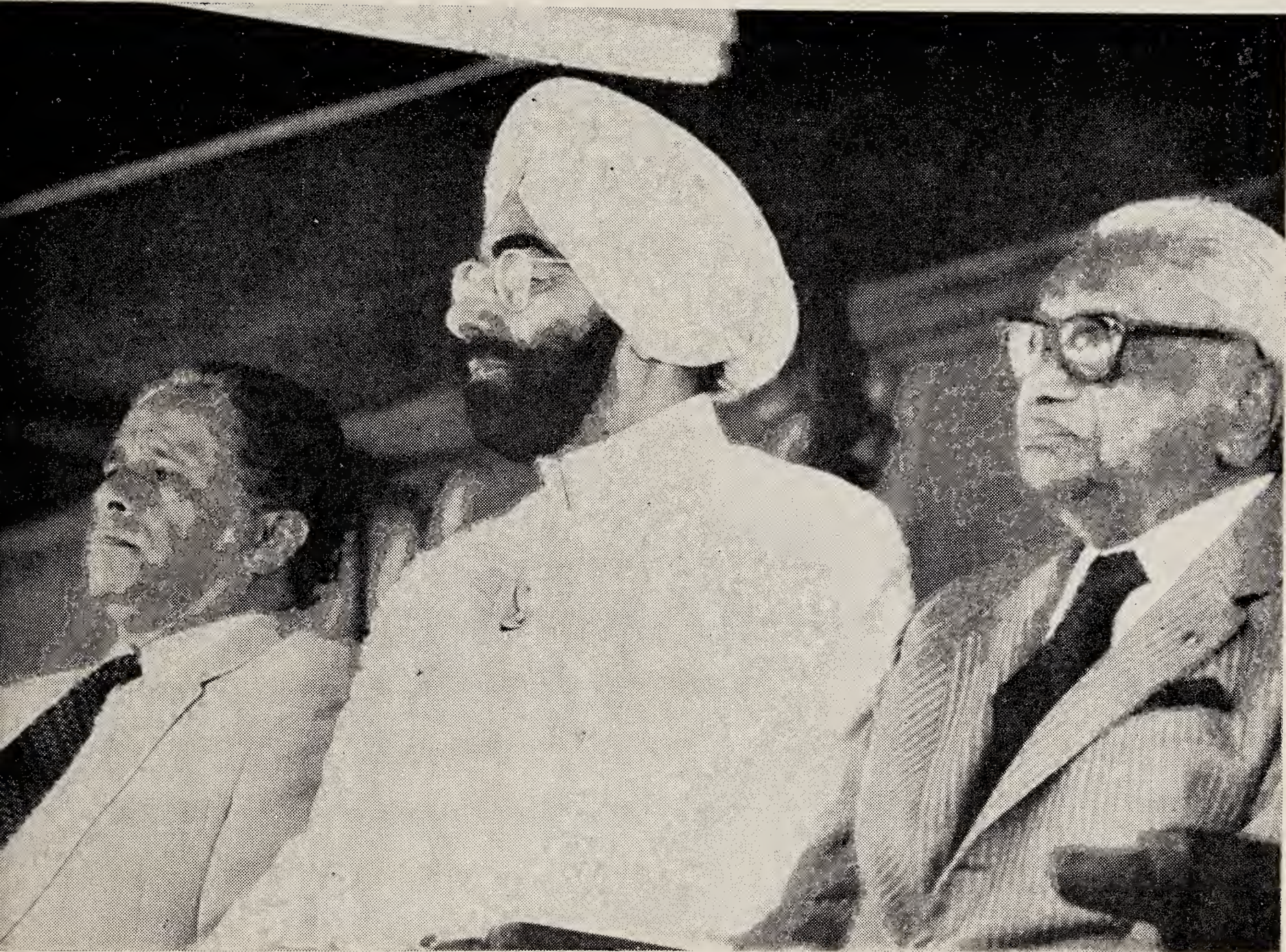
*Receiving a memento from H. E. Dr. Miguel de la Madrid,
President of Mexico, April 24, 1984*

Receiving President of Senegal, New Delhi, July 3, 1984





Meeting the Leaders of Opposition, Rashtrapati Bhavan, July 12, 1984



With Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Governor-General of Mauritius, October 24, 1984



*Administering oath of office to the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi,
New Delhi, October 31, 1984*

“Ever since I have to thy feet attached myself
 O Lord!
 None other since then
 Have I acknowledged it.

(Guru Gobind Singh)

These are the utterances of Guru Gobind Singh. And this silent prayer I had said right here in Darbar Sahib. A week after that, as you all know, I addressed the nation. I do not want to repeat what I then said, but only add that as the President, whenever unfortunate happenings transpire, wherever in India, I always seek the guidance of the Almighty by prayer and Ardas. Differences of opinion are natural when virile social groups interact in a society. Our nation is a democracy. There are political groups in a democracy and these groups have different ideologies. I am not involved in their internecine stances. The holy Akal Takht Sahib was conceived by Guru Hargobindji—the bearer of the dual swords of *miri* and *piri*. The sanctity of Akal Takht Sahib should be preserved in accordance with Sikh tennets and teachings of Gurus. And all the rites and conventions shall be observed fully and without restraint. There shall be no restrictions. The Punj Piaras themselves would see that in these holy precincts no such actions are permitted as would be highly improper. I am sure that following the announcement by the Prime Minister that the security forces would be withdrawn from the Temple complex, majority have been withdrawn. Those remaining would also be withdrawn. Let no one doubt, after this announcement that implementation would not follow. Indeed, this would be done. I, in fact, must appreciate the far-sightedness of the Punj Piaras, because the improved environment is a result of their having welcomed the announcement. Shut gates are now open. Hopefully the dialogue between them and the government will leave no scope for dissatisfaction. Indeed, they would settle everything with mutual understanding and trust.

I have been told that Akhand Path of Sri Guru Granth Sahib would commence on the 29th here at the Akal Takht Sahib. I hope the Singh Saheban would certainly ensure that what has transpired would never happen again. You should also try not only to generate goodwill amongst Punjabis, but also amongst all Indians, because

The True Guru is He, O, Nanak
 Who unites us all alike
 Almighty is He who instils brotherhood and kinship in mankind
 Kabir, seek thou the Door that is ever open upto thee
 And, leave not that Door ever; yea, cling to it tenaciously.

(Salok Kabir)

Seated at the feet of Baba Nanak as we are, I am sure that He shall so handle all these affairs that we shall forgive and forget. Here

engineers, technicians, devotees and others have laboured to complete the necessary repairs—may their *sewa* and labour be blessed. It is a time honoured tradition of the Guru's abode that he who visits shall not go unrewarded. God is the benefactor of mankind; He provides and He leads us to salvation:

O ye men, slander not the Saints, for,
the Lord and the Saints are one,
Says Kabir: I have attained to that Guru
whose name is wisdom.

We shall follow the sacred sayings of the Sat Guru and learn from it that men must love all mankind. Even if someone detests us, we must still love him. We have to win over the multitudes, not by the threat of annihilation but by the magic of love and affection. Babaji has spoken to us thus:

He, who calls himself a disciple of the True Guru
let him rise early in the morning and contemplate the Lord's name
let him attune himself to the Lord
and bathe in the pool of nectar at this early hour
And when the sun rises, let him sing the Guru's word
and reflect on the Lord's name upstanding and downsitteing
He, who contemplates my Lord with every breath,
he, the devotee, becomes the beloved of the Guru
Nanak craves the dust of the devotee's feet
who contemplates himself
and makes others contemplate the name of the Lord.

Government will try to settle each matter, whatever be the hindrance or obstruction in the path of a settlement.

Babaji had taught us that whatever we seek in our prayer, that is our ideal:

Nothing and none is bad
all are saved by the Mighty God
None is defeated or won
in the field of struggle of life.

He who seeks blessings for all is that Sikh, who is a Khalsa. May the Guru, true and sovereign, bless him with success. We should also resolve to work for the common good and banish all doubts from our minds. This can only be achieved if we all make a joint effort. India, that is Hindustan, stretching from the valleys of Kashmir to the mountains of Assam was the land that Guru, the true and sovereign one, sanctified by his love and historic jounies. Guru Tegh Bahadur Patshah's son Guru Gobind Singh's birth place was Patna. Their association with south India was also deep. In fact the tenth Guru left this world in Nanded.

How can such knots be untied? We must align ourselves with Guru's sayings. I am convinced that Guru has not enjoined us to follow blindly anything that a poet may recite or a leader may pronounce, because, in case of doubt, we must refer to Guru's *Bani* for guidance. If any teaching is in line with the *Bani*, we obey. If not, then we do not, because:

The 'Word' is the Guru
And the Guru is the Word
The Word is the nector of all nectors.

We had an exchange of views in private also. You all know the status of the President of India and responsibilities that go with it. I have conveyed to them how these responsibilities are carried out. We must not let doubts or worry creep into our psyche.

Those times should be remembered when right from Baba Guru Nanak Dev Maharaj to the tenth guru *Patshah*, Hindus, Muslims, and Christians flocked to their congregations. This would happen again. We must abide by those ideals. If in doing so my assistance is required, I would assist. There are many misconceptions, many streams of thought. These must be removed, not insultingly, but courteously. Guru Granth Sahib of ours is such a Guru that in it is quoted Sheikh Farid, who sitting in Harimandir Saheb was permitted to say:

O, Prayerless cur, this is not good for you no, nay
Pray, why do you visit not the Mosque but five times a day.

(Salok Farid)

This you will find nowhere else. Even Namaz has been permitted to be advocated. Similarly the sayings of Ramanand, Kabir and Namdeo have been incorporated in Guru Granth Sahib. Such is the *Bani* of Guru Granth Sahib. Guru Gobind Singh has spoken thus:

One may be shaven, Sanyasi or Yogi
Brahamchari or jati,
but all are equally loved by the Mighty God
The same God is in the temple as in the mosque
The Hindu worship Him and the Muslim pray,
Human beings are all one,
All are of the same form
and one in their making.

(Guru Gobind Singh, Akal Ustat)

He directed us to follow Guru Granth Sahib. His own *Bani*, excepting one couplet, he did not include in the Granth Sahib, because he had declared the Granth Sahib to be the Guru. None other than it must

be followed. The following phrases of Bhai Gurdas must never be forgotten that :

All are equal in the court of Guru Nanak, irrespective of their rank or race.

(Bhai Gurdas)

These are the teachings of the Gurus. In keeping with these I came here today. I, of course, wanted to pay obeisance here. I also had a dream to see the result of the *Sewa* performed here, because I had been witness to the damage on my previous visit. The Punj Piaras and the management have enabled me to do this. I would like to say to the Punjabis, in particular, and to Indians, in general, that Darbar Sahib is a common legacy. I am aware that all tried to offer their services for the *Sewa* and now even more voluntary services will be offered. For that people will converge from the far corners and also pay obeisance here. Therefore, my dream has been fulfilled. But those who are no more, whoever they were, I pray to God that salvation is granted to their souls, whether they were security forces personnel or civilians. Oh, Almighty grant their families the strength to face the will of fate. It is also prayed that the ideals which shaped the conception of these holy precincts may stay aloft. Let every being have free access to come here and pray, pay obeisance and seek blessings.

I know, Singh Saheban, that such responsibility has never fallen on you before. Now that it has, you can count on me. We must all do our duty and generate goodwill at large for Sikhs. Such an environment shall be generated that relations with people of all regions and believers in all religions should be characterised by a brotherly embrace. If God grants you strength then you can play an unprecedented historic role of great dimension. What I am trying to say is that in all this the government will cooperate with you. There shall now be a progressive dialogue. Have confidence, everything shall happen at the opportune moment.

Science and Technology

Solving Human Problems

I HAVE GREAT pleasure in being with you on this auspicious occasion. My congratulations and best wishes to the new graduates who have received their degrees today. May they have a successful career in their chosen profession and make their contribution to the welfare and development of the Nation. The Institutes of Technology form the core of science and engineering education in the country and are characterized by the highest standards of learning; these institutes are well known for their contribution to research and development. I am, indeed, happy to be associated with these Institutes of Technology as their Visitor.

Inter-disciplinary approach to the problems is a characteristic of the methodology adopted by the Institutes of Technology. I commend this to my young friends who are leaving the Institute; this is useful not only for their studies but also for tackling the practical problems of life. Real life problems do not belong to one narrow discipline in which specialization can be achieved, but are inter-related with a number of disciplines. However, a person with specialization in a certain discipline can contribute to the common goal only if he or she possesses a basic minimum working knowledge of the related disciplines, necessary for interaction with other colleagues in different disciplines. My young friends are indeed lucky to have grown up in a unique environment, created by the integration of science, engineering and humanities; this has presented to them a unique opportunity for acquiring dedication to work and inter-disciplinary approach during their stay at the Institute.

In addition to providing the best possible science and engineering education at the bachelor's, master's, doctoral and post-doctoral levels, the IITs have made significant contribution to basic knowledge and to the development efforts in the country.

India is a large country with people of different social, economic and cultural background. The vast majority live in rural areas and most of them are yet to reap the fruits of technological development in any significant measure. If science and technology are to serve as instruments of social change, it is imperative that the scientists and engineers must be concerned with the technologies that are applicable in the rural areas. Over the past three decades, the productivity in our country has increased but not reached the expected level, because we have not yet succeeded in adequately harnessing science and technology for the exploitation of our abundant natural resources. I am glad to learn from the Director's Report

that the Institute is engaged in the development and transfer of technology for the villages.

Energy crisis is a world-wide problem and our country is no exception. I am happy to learn that the Institute has made significant contributions to the areas of energy planning and conservation and exploitation of renewable energy resources.

I learn from the Director's Report that this Institute is endeavouring to associate the industry with its educational and research programmes. The Institute is also trying to identify experts from the industry for short-term teaching assignments and is encouraging teachers for taking short-term assignments in the industry. This is a healthy development as, in this process, the industry will get the benefit of the expertise and experience of the Institute and the Institute would come face to face with real life problems of the industry with consequent enrichment of experience and knowledge. I would like to commend this pattern to other institutions of technical learning in our country.

I understand that this Institute has collaboration with several other institutions and organisations in the developed countries, like UK, USA, USSR, Switzerland, France, Norway, Federal Republic of Germany, Australia etc., in different fields of science and technology. I hope that the Institute would be able to share their expertise with other institutions in this country under various programmes.

My young friends, you are fortunate to be embarking upon your career at a time when the country has already built up a vast technological infrastructure. It will be your task to lead the country along the road to fuller technological development. The future of this Nation, to a large extent, depends on the use the young engineers of today, like you, who will make use of the knowledge that they have gained in great institutions like IIT, Delhi. During your stay at the Institute you have acquired technological skill, professional competence and confidence. With these accomplishments you should be able to discharge your responsibilities to the society that has nurtured you till now. I wish you good luck and a long and purposeful life in the service of the country.

I am sure that the faculty and the graduates of the Institute will continue to extend the benefits of their expertise and experience to the country at large. After all, in the ultimate analysis the satisfaction that one derives from being useful to his country and community is the greatest reward one can hope to have.

To those who have received their degrees and distinctions, I once again offer my congratulations and good wishes for their success in the service of the Nation.

Value of Technical Education

I FEEL VERY happy to associate myself with this function and to present Memento to Shri Brish Bhanji and give away the awards to twelve distinguished old students of the Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology. This Institute has, over the last twenty-five years of its existence, rendered signal services to the spread of technical education in Punjab. It is very gratifying to note that the Institute is honouring Shri Brish Bhanji on this happy occasion.

The Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology came into existence in 1956 for which our beloved leader, first President of our Republic and my illustrious predecessor, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, laid the foundation stone. The Institute has made rapid progress steadily and graduated about 4,000 degree level engineers and 2,000 diploma holders who are working in many parts of our country as well as abroad. I would like to pay my tributes to late Lala Karam Chand Thapar whose vision and dedication brought about this Institute and laid the foundations for technical education on sound lines in Punjab.

I consider this as a proud day in the life of the Institute, on its onward march, as it is honouring Shri Brish Bhanji who as Chief Minister of the former State of PEPSU has played a key role in the establishment of Patiala Technical Education Trust to further and promote the cause of technical education and industrial research.

As you all know at one stage this country was known as a 'Golden Sparrow' on account of its flourishing trade and commerce. Thereafter, followed a period of stagnation and decay on account of foreign invasions and internal disintegration. It was under the able leadership of a visionary like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru that the country embarked upon an ambitious path of planned economic development immediately after attaining independence. As a part of this process the late Panditji clearly foresaw the need for scientific and technological manpower required for our future endeavours. Accordingly under his guidance a chain of Institutes of Science and Technology were established all over India side by side with massive investments in industrial infrastructure.

Panditji had said, 'It is science alone that can solve the problems of disease and hunger, poverty and illiteracy, of vast resources running to waste of rich country inhabited by a starving people'. In order to give practical shape to this conviction, he had embarked upon an ambitious developmental programme for scientific research by establishing a series of

technical institutes and a chain of national laboratories so as to provide scientific manpower to meet the needs of development.

It is the fruit of his vision that India can today proudly claim to possess the third position in the world in technological manpower. Today our scientists, engineers, technicians and doctors are eagerly sought after all over the world and are making tremendous contribution towards the economic prosperity of the various countries to which they have gone.

It is a matter of deep satisfaction that the Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology, which was so wisely conceived by the great entrepreneur late Lala Karam Chand Thapar, has come of age. The Institute has made substantial contribution towards the development of Punjab. The State owes a debt of gratitude to Lalaji for starting this Institute in a rather backward area and thus helping it to grow economically at a quicker pace.

A cursory look at our history and monuments reveals that we have a tradition of excellence both in art and industry. Indian muslin and silk had world-wide market. But it has to be appreciated that we have a village-based industrial concept. In the present day world, the concept of village and small scale industries has acquired a new significance and attracted the attention all over, especially in developing countries.

It is quite well-known that village industries are vital for providing employment opportunities on a large scale in order to eradicate poverty. I feel, that one of the most important endeavours on our part should be to evolve suitable technology which can help to increase productivity in small scale industries so that the fruits of economic progress may be evenly distributed. Too much of urbanization is fraught with many problems which will increase the burdens of the nation. Science and technology should help us in winning the war against poverty, hunger and disease and uplift the weaker sections of our population.

I am told that the Institute has made spectacular progress in the field of aero-space, computers, communication, life sciences and electronics. It is a matter of happiness that the Institute is planning to develop itself into one of the foremost centres for teaching and research in engineering, science and technology by modernising its laboratories and research facilities and promoting greater interaction with industry. I feel heartened to note that a comprehensive cooperative programme and establishment of a Corporate R & D Centre to ensure two-way exchange of ideas and information have been envisaged for implementation. This is a step in the right direction and this will enable the students to have a theoretical background with practical work.

I am happy that Shri L. M. Thapar, a worthy son of a worthy father, is taking keen interest in the development of this Institute and I congratulate him and the Patiala Technical Education Trust for their excellent achievements.

I wish them success in all their future endeavours and hope that the Institute will continue to grow from strength to strength into a leading engineering and technological institute of not only India but the whole world.

I once again congratulate Shri Brish Bhanji and others for this well merited honour which has been bestowed on them. I also congratulate Shri L. M. Thapar and the members of the Patiala Technical Education Trust for developing this Institute into a major engineering and technical institution of the country.

Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to be with you and to share these happy moments with you.

Research in Technology

AS THE VISITOR of the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, I have great pleasure in joining you all at the Silver Jubilee Convocation being held here today. The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, was established third in the chain of five Institutes located in this country. Our first beloved Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru laid the foundation for science and technology in this country and this process gave us five great institutions of excellence viz. the five IITs, to serve the needs of this country to initiate research and development and to provide high calibre technical manpower. I have no doubt that IIT Madras can be proud that it has not only come up to this expectation but indeed has been a pace-setter for several programmes and innovations in the field of technical education.

It is a matter of great pride that within these 25 years this IIT has not only produced manpower of high calibre, bulk of whom serve our nation, but it has developed close interaction with industries in the form of consultancy and interaction with other technical institutions through the Network Scheme. During these 25 years your Institute has developed into a leading centre of inter-disciplinary research and has dealt with problems of great relevance to our society, industry and defence. I would say, as the Visitor of this Institute that your past has been one of dedication, hard and sustained work and high level of performance. I congratulate the Council of Indian Institute of Technology, its Chairman and members, the Board of Governors of the IIT Madras, its Chairman, the faculty and staff of IIT Madras, and students for contributing to the success. While congratulating them I also wish that you may reach greater heights of glory in the next 25 years to come.

The next 25 years require harder work not only to maintain the achievements that you have reached, but even to make an incremental growth of this achievement. Nevertheless, I am sure with your past experience, with your excellent faculty and staff support and above all the support of Indian Govt., Indian industry and your dedicated students, the IIT Madras could do better in the next 25 years. What precisely IIT Madras would be required to do? How should you take up your further tasks to keep yourself in the fore-front of technical education? What can it do to strengthen its linkages with other technical institutions? How could it get close to the community? What could it do to establish strong R & D in the industries? What could it do to establish science parks where entrepreneurs and your alumni can innovate new manufacturing processes? These are some questions which I am sure must be engaging the attention of you all. The Reviewing Committee I have recently appointed would cover some of these questions and give us consolidated recommendations for making the IITs more useful in the service of the country while remaining excellent at the same time. I do not wish to anticipate the recommendations which the distinguished members of the Reviewing Committee would make in due course. However, I would like to share with you and your fraternity some of my thoughts which I hope will only help you in arriving on the directions of our growth and to be purposeful and useful in solving the problems of the country.

IITs are our top excellent centres of research and post-graduate studies. It is not sufficient that IITs be satisfied with excellent quality of undergraduate students they prepare. Their main task should be to prepare a variety of graduate programmes in the inter-disciplinary fields and provide manpower in the crucial areas of research, design and development. Their responsibility is to provide a variety of doctoral programmes in areas that are relevant to this country, dealing with the problems that our institutions are confronted with and above all handling projects in the inter-disciplinary fields. They should not do what any other technical institution in India can normally do. They should tackle the problems which *prima facie* require the assistance, the support and indeed close involvement of various disciplines. It is this type of research dealing with problems that are unique, that are inter-disciplinary and that are sufficiently big in magnitude, that excite faculty as well as scholars in the IIT in their work. It is this that evolves groups of research schools, and it is this type of research programmes that generates pride, originality as well as honour among the scientists in India and abroad. I believe IITs should now concentrate on developing research centres in frontier areas of science and technology relevant to problems of the country, rather than problems of routine nature or industrial consultancy of every day type. What the IITs can do is to choose one or two areas in each broad discipline of engineering where they have their strength and concentrate their

effort. These research schools, once established, will produce new thoughts and provide full scope to persons of excellence and calibre. May I, therefore, ask IIT Madras on the Silver Jubilee occasion to concentrate your energies in future to form such schools of research and maintain our excellence in the field of research, technology and engineering.

I understand that through industrial consultancy and sponsored projects your IIT earns roughly Rs. 1.5 crores per annum. This is good as an achievement in the first 25 years. I congratulate you on this achievement but I would like to share some of my thoughts on expanding your relationship with industry in a larger and more purposeful way. I am convinced that greater relationship between our high apex institutions like the IITs as well as our industry is both necessary and healthy. Some of the questions often posed in this connection are : Why is the industry not participating more with technical institutions? Why should we import technology from abroad instead of our industry getting it from our IITs? Why is there no help from our technical institutions immediately to clear the doubts and problems of industry etc. ? The key to close interaction between an IIT and industry is the facilities given to industry to turn to IIT for almost all problems concerning research, design and development. May be the IITs as educational institutions only offer solutions that are not experimented and industry is keen in having ready-made turn-key solutions rather than experimental decisions. May be the types of problems the industry have are not sufficiently exciting for the research group in the IIT to interest itself. Ladies and gentlemen, you will agree with me, if our industry do not look upon our IITs at least for the research and methodology for their major technological problems, we will continue to import much of the ideas from abroad costing a heavy strain on our resources. I think the key to this problem lies in generous pilot plans being established by the IITs. I think IITs where they have been successful in solving a problem of industry should engage themselves to extend their solutions and demonstrate practicability to the industry. This type of extension of their solutions is important and IITs must generously be provided adequate funding methods through which the extension service can be done. This problem is of great concern to me, ladies and gentlemen, because I believe that in this transfer of our knowledge from the IITs to the industry we will see the utility of these institutions in the service of mankind.

I understand as a mark of concern for the society around you, you established three years ago a Centre for Rural Development. This Centre has proved a success and I congratulate you for taking up this idea and establishment of this Centre as a self-supporting venture. I would exhort other institutions to follow this model so that such growth centres for research development can be replaced elsewhere. The most important

thing that attracts me is that in such a Rural Centre you are adopting a high level productivity as feasible to a smaller community. This is very crucial for India as our endeavour is to improve production through increasing efficiency.

The IITs have always attracted brilliant students who come here for studies for the graduate programmes, for the doctoral work, and leave with rich traditions to pursue their chosen professions. One such batch is graduating today. I would like to congratulate all of you new graduates on having earned your degrees, after hard and devoted work, from this Institute of excellence. You, graduates of the year, carry a great responsibility on your shoulders. You have not only to maintain high traditions of this Institute but you have to work harder for greater growth which does not come as easily as in the early years. But I am sure that with your training, dedication, intelligence and hard work this can be achieved. I wish you the best of luck in your future.

May I say to Smt. Shiela Kaul, you as Chairman of the Council of the Indian Institutes of Technology, should be proud of guiding IITs in their policy and growth. I am sure your Council will continue to guide them further in their task and give them all the support and encouragement. In this task of IITs in our nation building I invoke the blessing of God for your hard work and success in the future.

Technology at Village Doors

I HAVE GREAT pleasure to be here today at the 21st Convocation of Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. This Institute was set up as second in the chain of five such Institutes. It has completed 25 years of its eventful existence with a creditable record of achievements. At the very outset, I would like to congratulate all the young graduates who are today being awarded their degrees from this excellent institute of technology. To them I will say you carry with you the skills and knowledge acquired in the Institute. I have every confidence that you will work with devotion wherever you may work. I wish you the best of luck in your future career. May you have the opportunities of self-fulfilment and service to the nation.

India started with a heavy task at the time of independence, lacking almost everything that is needed for existence in the modern world with dignity and freedom. We owe a debt of gratitude to our leader and first

Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who conceived of a chain of institutions for science and technology for serving the nation in its plans for socio-economic development. Set up in 1958, this Institute has established a proud record of service. The chain of National Laboratories and institutes of higher learning in science and technology has over the last three decades helped to make India self-sufficient in many respects. It has enabled the country to possess the third largest scientific and technical manpower in the world. Indian scientists and technologists enjoy a very high reputation all over the world as can be seen by their presence in all parts of the world.

The motto of your Institute is "GNANAM PARAMAM DYEYAM". This puts an added responsibility on your shoulders. Acquisition of knowledge is not over by getting a degree and a job. Acquisition of knowledge and application of it, in the service of society, is a continuous and never ending process. You must go on widening the frontiers of knowledge and developing the wisdom to use the knowledge for a creative purpose. I am happy to note that in your course here there is a harmonious blend of basic sciences, engineering application, humanities and social sciences and technical arts. The Institute's Research and Development efforts have also added a new dimension to its varied activities. The Institute has taken up many research projects during the last 25 years, with useful results. In this context, I commend the proposal of the Institute to set up two new centres of advanced studies in environmental science and powder metallurgy.

Being located in an industrial centre like Bombay, your Institute is ideally suited to develop the interaction of research with industry. The institutes of technology help us in building machines and in evolving an entirely new technological base for taking industrialisation further. There is a need to evolve a small unit technology so as to convert every cottage in every village into a production centre. I know that the Institute is working in the direction of an appropriate technology and that a comprehensive approach is being developed to the rural needs. This deserves high priority. Production of goods on a massive scale in a vast country like ours becomes easier if we are able to evolve small unit technology within the reach of each artisan and skilled person, living in our villages. This will help us to reverse the flow of people coming to urban areas and help in solving many problems that arise out of excessive concentration of industries in the already over-crowded urban centres. I hope that the technological community will address itself to this task on a priority basis and produce significant results in the foreseeable future.

As it celebrates the Silver Jubilee Year, the Institute can feel proud of its achievements over the last two and a half decades. I would like to pose a question for your consideration in this Jubilee Year of the

Institute. You are all aware of what is called brain-drain. Our scientists, doctors, engineers and technologists go abroad and work in all parts of the world. It is a matter of pride to us to know that they are second to none in the world and that they are much sought after. Their good work earns for our country esteem and goodwill amongst international community. But is it not possible that the benefit of their knowledge and experience is shared by their motherland also through suitable means? They can surely maintain their cultural roots and evolve beneficial schemes of collaboration with their brethren working within the country of their origin. Recently I had the privilege of inaugurating a large medical complex in Madras set up on corporate lines by non-resident Indian doctors with the collaboration of doctors resident in India. Perhaps this is the first of its kind. It gave me lot of pleasure to see Indian doctors coming back with their skills and resources to serve people in their motherland. Cannot such spirit inspire other non-resident Indians, whether doctors, engineers, scientists, or technologists? I hope that Indian scientists, engineers, doctors and other technicians working abroad will be able to find opportunities to actively participate in the country's development, along with the fulfilment of their career aspirations.

I am sure that the faculty and the graduates of the Institute will continue to exert and extend the benefits of their know-how and experience to the country at large.

I thank Dr. Raja Ramanna for inviting me to be here and giving this opportunity to address you. Once again, I congratulate the new graduates and wish them all success in their career.

Carry Agro-Research to Farms

I FEEL GREATLY honoured to have been invited to deliver the convocation address at this XII Convocation of the first Agricultural University of India named after the late Gobind Ballabh Pant, a great freedom fighter, an eminent administrator and one of our distinguished leaders.

The establishment of this University in 1960 has been a landmark in the history of development of scientific agriculture and agricultural education in the country. As you are aware at the time of independence in 1947 — there were only 17 institutions offering agricultural degree programmes in India. The need to bring about a rapid increase in food production in the years immediately following independence, had

necessitated a critical re-examination of the existing system of agricultural education in the country. It was soon realised that the goals of increased production could be achieved only through application of science and technology to agriculture and that trained personnel were vital for developing science-based agriculture. Accordingly Government of India appointed in 1948-49 the University Education Commission headed by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, our former President and my illustrious predecessor, to examine the entire system of higher education in India and make recommendations for its improvement. Recognising the weaknesses of the traditional system and the need for linking programmes of agricultural education with programmes of agricultural production, this Commission suggested in 1950, the establishment of "Rural Universities". This turned out to be a most far-reaching recommendation, for it represented the germ of the idea that eventually led to the establishment of a number of agricultural universities in India.

After a careful consideration of the different systems of higher agricultural education which were in vogue in different parts of the world at that time, the Government of India came to the conclusion that the Land Grant College system of education in the USA provided the most promising basis for developing a suitable model for India.

Not many years ago, this very busy seat of learning was a forested rendezvous of the prowling tigers, rogue elephants and charging swines. When this university was dedicated to the nation on the 17th November, 1960 by our beloved late Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the whole nation was looking to this new venture with expectation. I congratulate the scientists and the administrators whose hard work and devotion enabled it to establish a position of leadership in a short-span of about a decade only. I am very happy to know that this institution has succeeded in providing highly qualified and competent agricultural scientists to a large number of agricultural institutions and organisations in the country. I feel heartened to know that the graduates of this university are in great demand all over the country in recognition of the quality of their training including practical farming, which has been its strong point.

I am very happy to note that in accordance with the expectations of our late Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, the university has maintained its rural character. Its student body is drawn up from different parts of the country and there is participation of students from several foreign countries also. The university is following a policy of admitting students strictly on merit based on scientific tests conducted at several locations in different parts of the country. The university has made a deliberate attempt to keep at least 15 to 25% of the seats for students from outside the State. This endeavour of the university has resulted in giving it a national character. Similarly, I understand that this university is attracting talent from all over the country on its faculty. This has enabled this

university to maintain its cosmopolitan character and high faculty competence. It is good to know that emphasis was given to the practical training rather than text book education. A revolutionary practical crop production programme was started which has now been adopted by all the agricultural universities in the country as a model. I have been told that an innovative "Earn while you learn" programme for students was started which is also now followed by other agricultural universities. I think that this is a step in right direction and this should be emulated by all institutions of technology in the country.

One of the weakest links in our agricultural research system has been the slow transfer of technology from the research scientists to the farmers. I am happy to know that to overcome this shortcoming, this university has established a modern communication centre which in addition to discharging its normal function, also serves as an advance centre for post-graduate agricultural education and research in the field of agricultural communications. I am also happy to know that this agricultural university was the first to start teaching agriculture at higher level both in English and Hindi medium. The university has also done pioneering work in the translation and publication of university level text books in Hindi in various disciplines of agricultural and allied sciences. I appreciate this step and hope that all should follow this system and translate into all other languages in our country.

From this annual report of this university, I find that the academic performances of the students has been showing continued improvement. The percentage of student drop-out has been nominal and the number of students obtaining merit certificates increasing from year to year. It is also worth noting that a large number of the students of the university are getting scholarships offered by ICAR and other institutions every year.

As you are all aware, basically India is an agricultural country which provides livelihood for about three-fourths of our population. Agriculture provides raw materials to many of our industries and many commodities for export purposes. Agriculture has, therefore, been rightly accorded with a top priority in the 6th Plan. There are yet many areas in agriculture, like variations in yields, costs and prices, which require a thorough examination by agricultural scientists, economists and administrators so as to make agriculture a more paying proposition to our farmers. While fixing the prices for the farmers for their produce, I feel that adequate attention should be paid to the variations in cost of production from region to region.

An increase in agricultural production, besides nature, depends upon many other factors like seeds, supply of fertilisers, insecticides and agricultural implements. It is highly necessary to pay attention to these inputs and see that quality is maintained. Those who manufacture agricultural implements and farm equipment of good quality and those who invent new implements should be given recognition and honoured. I feel that this

will give an impetus to the growth of rural industries which in turn help the development of rural areas. At the same time, adequate attention should be paid for the development of agro-based industries.

I understand that the future programmes of this university are aimed at the development of new fields and new disciplines, according to the emerging needs of the time. Development of forestry, fisheries, wild life, agricultural management, environmental science, genetic engineering, microbial technology, rural development and cooperation, etc. are some of the new areas which the university plans to develop. I am sure that these efforts of the university are in the right direction and it will be able to secure adequate financial material and manpower resources to implement these new programmes.

I would like to draw your attention to another problem—the problem of wastes in agriculture, poultry farming and so on. I am aware of the fact that considerable efforts are being made to reduce wastes and develop some economic uses for them also. I am happy to note that the university is endeavouring in this direction. More production by itself is not an end in itself but it is more necessary to see that it retains its food values during the storage, which necessitates a post-harvesting technology. I am heartened to know that this university is making laudable efforts to develop a viable post-harvesting technology centre.

I am confident that all the graduates of the year will find opportunity to use their knowledge and skills in the fascinating task of transforming and modernising the agricultural economy of our great country. I am sure that the knowledge and skill that you have acquired will help you in facing the challenges of life with courage, determination and dexterity. I hope that in whatever you do, you will be guided by the spirit of selfless service to the nation and always will look towards your alma mater for guidance and inspiration. I heartily congratulate you—outgoing graduates of the year and wish you all success in life.

I thank the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor for inviting me here and giving this opportunity to address you and take part in this convocation.

Science and Peace

I AM GLAD to be here with you today. What makes me happier is the presence of young students. It is such a heart warming experience to be with young people as they are our hopes for the future.

The theme of the Seminar is very important. I am glad that this theme has been chosen in the context of 1983 having been declared by the United Nations as "World Communication Year". The National Council of Science Museums has done well in taking the initiative for focussing attention on the present-day situation in communication and the perspectives for tomorrow. I appreciate the fact that the participants have been drawn from different States and Union Territories. This imparts the Seminar a truly national character. In yet another way the theme is relevant as today we are proud of the great technological breakthrough we have made in building up satellite communication. Whose heart is not gladdened by the fact that we have the INSAT-IB today beaming pictures and messages? True to our tradition of peace we are using latest communication technology in the cause of peace. The students here would be glad to know that large part of INSAT communication programme would be devoted to development of educational technology through TV and Radio.

The history of development of communication is in a way the history of evolution of mankind. In the early days man developed different communication media like sign languages, cave paintings and drum beats. Today we use post, telegraph, telephone, telex, radio and TV to transmit messages to our friends and relations hundreds of kilometers away. Since independence it has been our primary concern to strive for national integration which can be achieved only with the help of a sound and efficient communication network. We should try our utmost to develop this network.

Though we have a large scientific and technical manpower, yet illiteracy is widespread especially among the rural population. The gains of modern science and technology have to be taken to these rural households. I look forward to the educational programmes through radio, films and lately through satellite linked television sets to fulfil this promise. In short, communication technology has a very strong bearing in making these programmes successful.

Our country is endowed by nature with many gifts. Yet often we hear about natural calamities destroying life and crops in different parts of the country. For a developing economy like ours, wastage of national wealth is a crippling blow and cannot be accepted any more. To safeguard our national wealth against loss from natural calamities, early warning systems must be called into action. To do this, weather satellites and other modern communication media are to be employed.

In these days of rapid scientific and technological developments, the news of our own achievements should reach our countrymen in the quickest possible time and the role of mass communication media like newspapers, radio, TV and films is very important in this regard. People

all over the country are to be kept abreast of the developments which are nationally important. Another great role of communication technology for the well being of our Republic is in the defence services. It is needless to say that to maintain a state of maximum alertness all the time and to meet any eventuality successfully, our defence services have to depend on a highly efficient communication network.

You will appreciate that as communication expands the world is shrinking. Communication is a very important way of bringing about not only national integration but the unity of mankind in its pursuit of peace and happiness. The young people must remember that with the development of communication the basis of unity must also be strengthened. It is a privilege that you are living in a free country and that you can communicate across the length and breadth in person as also through other media.

I congratulate all the children who took part in the Seminar. My special praise goes to those children who won prizes. The Department of Culture and the NCSM need to be congratulated for organising this Seminar. I might also end on a note of caution. In the present day world, we are increasingly relying on science. But science must be always subordinate to human welfare, for has it not been very well said that "even though you may gain the whole world it means nothing if you lose your soul". Technology and communication must, therefore, be used for peace and goodwill.

I thank the Chairman and the Director of National Council of Science Museums for inviting me to this function.

Role of Science

I AM DELIGHTED to be here today and to give away the national and State level awards for outstanding contribution in sciences, engineering and technological sciences and social sciences. I congratulate the Government of Madhya Pradesh for instituting these awards in order to promote excellence in these fields and to accord recognition to outstanding scientists and engineers. I would like to congratulate the Award winners in this year and I hope that these awards will inspire others to greater efforts in achieving excellence.

Strong foundations for the progress of the country based on science and technology have been laid after independence as part of the national

priorities for planned development. A chain of scientific institutions like National Laboratories and Technological Institutes have been established in different parts of the country. The entire educational system has been re-oriented with this outlook, and this has enabled India to make significant progress over the last three decades. Now India is among the leading scientific nations of the world with a large reservoir of scientific and technical manpower. Indian engineers, doctors, scientists and technologists are to be found working in all parts of the world. All this has become possible because of the recognition given by Government to the role of science and technology in the nation's development and the dedicated work of our scientists and technologists. India is making headway in the fields of nuclear, oceanic and space research. The sustained efforts of our agricultural scientists have helped us to achieve near self-sufficiency in the production of food-grains. Thus, science and technology are being pressed into service in order to improve the living standards of our people and to abolish poverty. The steps taken by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for promoting the pursuit of science and technology and honouring eminent scientists deserve our appreciation.

Once again, I congratulate the Award winners, Dr. A. S. Paintal, Dr. R. K. Singh, Dr. H. K. Goswami and Dr. J. P. Rathore for their achievements. I wish them further success in future.

I thank the Chief Minister, Shri Arjun Singh, for inviting me to this function.

Developing Man-Power Resources

I HAVE GREAT pleasure in laying the foundation stone of the new building to house the newly created Regional Institute of Science and Technology for the North Eastern Region. The setting up of the Institute has been a very good step in the direction of developing the manpower resources of the region and thereby accelerating its economic development.

The creation of this Institute, I understand, has been preceded by a thorough study conducted by a working group of experts to consider the manpower requirements of this region, and to formulate a scheme after taking into account the special problems and needs of this region. There has also been consultations with a number of scientists, technologists, academicians and persons from industry. I compliment the Ministry of Education, Government of India, on the support and encouragement they

have provided for the setting up of this Institute, as also the initiative taken by the North Eastern Council in this regard. The Institute will benefit all the States and Union Territories of this region. I am happy that the Institute has been located at Itanagar, which is becoming a more beautiful place with a congenial environment. The Government of Arunachal Pradesh deserve to be congratulated on the vision and generosity they have displayed in offering all possible assistance for the setting up of this Institute, particularly providing about 500 acres of land free for the Institute as well as some accommodation, to start with, for the residence of the essential academic and administrative staff.

The training of manpower is an essential part of the process of planning for social and economic development. The development of skills required for various productive processes is an essential pre-requisite for development. This Institute, I am happy to find, has been specially designed to provide the kind of training for skills which are needed in this region. The courses for this Institute have been designed to train manpower for three occupational levels of craftsman, technician and engineer. What is of special importance is that there will be provision for integration, to the extent possible, of the courses for the three levels. There will be bridge courses which will permit a trainee to move from one level to the next higher level, if he has the necessary aptitude and capability; on the other hand a trainee can terminate his training on completion of a particular level to which he has been admitted, without any compulsion to go on for the next higher level. I understand, this kind of interlinking between courses at different levels is a new concept which is being experimented in this Institute and I wish the experimentation success. This will enable a trainee to receive training and develop his skills upto the fullest extent of his potentiality, without compelling him to go through a long course of the conventional nature. It will give flexibility to the system, save time and energy, and make skilled manpower more quickly available for undertaking tasks of economic development.

It is heartening that even though the construction of the buildings is just being taken up, this will not stand in the way of the commencement of educational curriculum, and that the first admission for the lowest level course at the craftsman level will commence in July this year, with an initial intake of 125 students. Gradually, year after year, the enrolment will increase. The higher level courses for technicians and engineers will be commenced, and the Institute ultimately will provide for a total enrolment of 2,250 students in a span of about 8 years. This is a bold and imaginative scheme for technical education and the authors of this scheme deserve to be complimented on charting out a new course which may show the way to other regions of the country for a flexible and innovative training technique.

I would also like to say a word about the academic faculty that is being assembled to serve the Institute. Even though Itanagar is an enchanting place, with attractive natural surroundings, the facilities available for accommodation of the academic faculty are as yet rather meagre. Those who are joining the Institute to serve it at its initial creative stage will have to come with a sense of dedication and they may have to forego some of the usual amenities of living which are available in developed urban centres. I have no doubt that the academic community as well as the administrative staff of this Institute will respond to this challenge and give their best for the development of the Institute.

I should like to thank the Lt. Governor of Arunachal Pradesh and the Chief Minister for having invited me to associate myself with this Institute. I have great pleasure in laying the foundation stone of this Institute and extending to it my best wishes for success in fulfilling the objectives for which it has been designed so that it may become a major instrument for the social and economic development of the people of the North Eastern region. India will be proud of this North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology, located in this land of rising sun, sending joyous light to the entire North Eastern region consisting of Seven sisters.

Thrill of Outer Space

ON THIS AUSPICIOUS occasion when the nation honours the brave cosmonauts of the Soviet Union and India for successfully carrying out the mission assigned to the Indo-Soviet manned space flight, I extend my heartiest felicitations to you, Col. Malyshev, Mr. Strekalov, Sqn. Ldr. Rakesh Sharma, Col. Berezovoi, Mr. Grechko and Wg. Cdr. Ravish Malhotra. The people of both our countries rejoice in your outstanding achievement. You have worked assiduously for the fulfilment of the historic project and have demonstrated exemplary bravery and heroism. Your example will inspire millions of young citizens in our two countries to reach out for the distant.

I would also like to congratulate the many scientists, engineers and workers who have worked ceaselessly and selflessly for making this mission an outstanding success. My very special felicitations to the Indian Air Force for providing two of its outstanding members for the space flight which enabled the first Indian to reach the outer space.

The history of Indo-Soviet relations is full of examples of many successful projects of cooperation between the two countries in industry, in science and technology and in the enrichment of culture and the arts. When the first team of Indian and Soviet cosmonauts soared into space on April 3, 1984, they carried forward the tradition of cooperation and provided a fine testimony to the friendship between our two countries. Throughout the period when Sqn. Ldr. Rakesh Sharma and his Soviet colleagues were in space, millions of citizens of the two countries have followed their progress with keen interest and applauded their achievement.

India's space programme is dedicated to peaceful use of outer space for the enrichment of mankind. Its objective is to enable us to better harness our resources in the service of our people. The successful space flight assumes significance in this context. We are grateful to the Soviet Union for the firm hand of cooperation it has extended. I am confident that the cooperation between our countries in the field of space research will continue to grow, adding one more bright vista to our wide ranging relations.

Once again my young friends, I extend to you the heartiest felicitations from the people of India and myself on your historic achievement. I wish you all success and glory in the years to come. The two nations will remember your invaluable contribution to further strengthening of ties of friendship between India and Soviet Union.

Mass Media

Art of Film Making

I AM GLAD to be here with you this evening and to give away the 30th National Film Awards. I am thankful to the Minister for Information and Broadcasting for inviting me here. I congratulate the award winners for their achievements. This is a wonderful medium with immense possibilities. We have the distinction of being the largest film producing country in the world. Over the years this art-form has absorbed the advancement in technology and has grown into a big commercial venture.

Our cinema has made spectacular progress in all aspects of film making. It was seventy years ago that the first Indian film by the famous Dada Saheb Phalke, "Raja Harishchandra" was screened in Bombay. Within five years of the invention of the talkie the first Indian talkie "Alam Ara" was released in India in 1931. The Indian films have always kept pace with the latest technological advances in film making. It is a matter of pride for all of us that we produce films in all languages of India. What has really impressed me most is the projection of cultures of various regions in our films. I find it a great education watching films from different regions and understanding the lives of people from all parts of India.

It is not enough to produce a large number of films. We should make a large number of good films as well. The National Awards instituted in 1953 aim to serve the promotion of good cinema and also help production of films with higher social purposes and relevance. Our efforts should be to encourage makers of good cinema so that the bad films do not damage the social fabric in this country. It is in this context that the National Awards should play a crucial role. One criticism of our films is the excessive projection of sex and violence. This was at its peak a few years ago. Fortunately, in recent years this trend is being reversed.

As a powerful visual media, cinema has a responsibility to the nation and has to play a positive role in strengthening the unity of the country. There are many themes available from our historic freedom struggle which remain to be brought to the silver screen. It will not be out of place here if I mention about the recent film 'Gandhi'. This film has created a new awareness throughout the world about the relevance of Mahatma Gandhi's life and message and strengthened the forces of peace and non-violence. There is a vast potential in this field and I hope the producers and directors will take it seriously and contribute their mite for strengthening national integration and spirit of service to the nation. This will also help in inspiring the youth of the country with a spirit of devotion and dedication.

I am glad to know that this is the 30th year of National Awards. It is very heartening to know that over the years the scheme of national awards

has been enlarged and revised to suit the needs of a growing industry. It is a matter of great pride that some of our films have won world-wide recognition for their excellence and artistic merits. Some of our film makers are also known the world over for their masterly handling of this powerful medium. Right from the early stage social evils and disabilities have been subjects of films in this country. We welcome such films which influence the people at large and make them realise the social evils. Reality does not necessarily mean the projection only of the darker aspect of social life. In every walk of life there are individuals and experiences which give us hope and regenerate our faith in man.

I would appeal to the film makers to project the good work done by the people. They should consider the totality of the situation prevailing in the country as a whole and try to project themes which will instil hope and confidence in the minds of the people. It is also important to present a balanced view of things.

The opening of the commercial possibilities and the urge for commercial success have brought in certain trends at the cost of good socially relevant films. You will all agree with me that there is a tremendous need to correct this imbalance in the industry. I have a few suggestions which I want to share with you all today.

I cannot agree with those who for the sake of entertainment bring out meaningless, make-believe and often dull films which question the very rationale of human nature and behaviour. Entertainment is no doubt an important aspect of film making. But in that garb we should not produce films which will corrupt viewing and the impressionable sections of our people. In this context, I would like to draw the attention of the producers especially to the themes that are intended to help strengthen national integration and communal harmony. One often comes across examples of people belonging to one community, exhibiting great valour and a high spirit of self-sacrifice in saving the lives of people belonging to another community. Tales of this kind of exemplary heroism, valour and chivalry should find a prominent place in such themes.

At the same time, the real but invisible troublemakers and mischief mongers, should be exposed since they otherwise go unpunished and scot-free. It is because of their acts, innocent people die in communal clashes.

Some people think rather erroneously that the moral standards of the people belonging to the film industry are rather low. This is an erroneous impression which needs to be combated effectively. This may be surprising but it is a fact that there are numerous people of very high integrity, character and morality in the film industry whose personal bearing and social conduct places them amongst the most refined and respectable members of our country.

I would also like to touch briefly another aspect of film with social themes. These films mostly tend to show the virtues of equality—social, political and economic and so on. But the means employed to convey these lofty ideals and the incidents depicted should be compatible with our social and cultural norms.

Films are the most effective media today and have tremendous effect on the minds of younger generations. It is here that the film industry is required to discharge its duty to the nation as the guardian of its morality and the preserver of our proud cultural traditions. Films are extremely popular among the younger generation and play much more important part in moulding their behavioural pattern than educational, religious and other cultural institutions. It is therefore imperative on the part of film makers to bear this important factor in mind and make efforts to raise the social, moral and cultural standards of the viewers and to uphold our traditions and values so that our rich cultural heritage may continue to flourish.

We find that many of the pictures depict struggle between good and evil. But the evil is sometimes so much glamourised that the minds of younger generation are swayed towards the negative aspect of the films often having adverse effect on young people. The film makers therefore should endeavour to glorify good and condemn evil. Bravery should also score over cowardice.

In our society, there is so much social exploitation. Films must highlight the exploitation of the weak and downtrodden by the rich and powerful and bring out the enormity of the problems faced by the people. The aim should be to show corrupt people ultimately suffering, the exploiters being punished and the mischief mongers being humiliated publicly. Films should not highlight the negative aspects of life and must contribute to strengthen the positive side.

Before concluding, I congratulate the award winners once again and hope that they will strive to scale greater heights in future.

Rapid Advance in Film Technology

I AM DELIGHTED to be here this evening and to give away the thirty-first National Film Awards. I thank the Minister of Information and Broadcasting for inviting me again for the second time in succession. I congratulate the award winners for their outstanding performance and achievements. Since I spoke at length last time, I would like to be brief today.

Going by statistics of the film industry, I must say that the Indian cinema has made rapid strides, uninterruptedly ever since the first film was produced by Dada Saheb Phalke. It has grown in stature in quality, and more than all in terms of technology. It never lagged behind in adopting the latest technological advances in the field. I am told that India continues to be the largest producer of films in the world. What is more significant about film industry is that Indian cinema reflects the spirit of unity in diversity—a unique feature indeed. Films are produced in all our languages, which is an altogether new dimension. The interaction of films and their themes in various languages is a factor of great significance contributing immensely to unity and national integration. I am sure that our directors and producers will continue to keep this in mind and contribute their mite.

The Indian cinema has many outstanding achievements since these national awards were instituted in 1953 for the promotion of good cinema and also encouraging production of films with a social purpose and relevance. Of course it is sometimes difficult to decide what is good and what is bad. This is an eternal question. However, there are some ground rules. I feel that whatever theme that contributes to the strengthening of moral force in a society, should be considered as a good one. There is a social responsibility on the shoulders of film directors and producers and I am confident that they will keep that always in mind. Box-office collections alone should not be the motivating force for producing a cinema. Films should contribute to strengthen the bonds of unity and brotherhood and help in upholding our cherished values of truth, love, compassion and non-violence.

I congratulate the director and the producer of the film 'Adi Shankaracharya' in Sanskrit for their outstanding performance. The spiritual endeavours of Adi Shankaracharya centuries ago strengthened the foundations of our cultural unity which has withstood the test of centuries. A point of great significance is that the film is in Sanskrit language, which is a sustaining force of most of our languages. I congratulate the Film Development Corporation of India for extending assistance in producing this film. I hope that the film will be rendered into other languages also in due course so as to spread the message in all parts of our country.

Speaking on the same occasion last year I had stated that entertainment does not mean meaningless, make-believe and unrealistic films which raise fundamental doubts about the rationale of human nature and behaviour. Entertainment is an important aspect, but I feel that it should not be made the means to corrupt the impressionable sections of our people. I also feel that films should have social relevance and reflect the urges and aspirations of our people. As the most effective visual media, films exercise tremendous influence on the minds of people. This can be used for good as well as for evil. Our emphasis should be on sustaining the forces of good, exposing the forces of evil.

The awards that have been given today may not amount to much in material terms. But the glory in winning them lies in the realisation that excellence is appreciated and applauded. The winners whom you cheered today represent a class of artists who promote beauty and truth ; who look at reality with a poet's eye to enrich the viewers' lives ; who by their commitment to aesthetics and imaginativeness, have disproved the commonly held credo that vulgarity and garishness are essential to success.

With these few words, I thank the Minister of Information and Broadcasting for inviting me here for this function.

Tributes

Visionary Patriot

I AM VERY glad to be here this morning amidst you all and to associate myself with the concluding function of the Subramania Bharati Centenary Celebrations Committee. I would like to congratulate the Chairman, Shri Kamalapati Tripathiji and other members of the Committee for their successful endeavours in celebrating the birth centenary of the great poet.

The title 'Bharati' was conferred on Subramania Bharati while he was still a boy, by the local scholars impressed by his natural compositions. From early childhood he was inspired by the eternal values of India's culture like truth, love, compassion and equality of man. Like many others of the day he took to the freedom struggle and started as a journalist. He had to leave the Madras Province in order to escape from the wrath of British authorities and lived in exile in Pondicherry for full one decade from 1908 to 1918. Here it was that he came into close contact with that great revolutionary and patriot—Shri Aurobindo. Bharati's universal outlook and quest for equality was quite evident from his letter to *The Hindu*, dated Sept. 3, 1914, extending support to Shri Balgangadhar Tilak's stand on First World War when he said, "we are lovers of humanity and servants of God, the children of righteousness and the peace that shall endure for ever".

It is unity in diversity that runs through all his writings. In a poem about the motherland, Bharati said, "She has thirty crores of faces but her heart is one. She speaks eighteen languages yet her mind is one." What is more significant was his concern for the welfare of the neglected sections of the society, the socially backward and economically down-trodden. Bharati said that "if there is no bread for one, even one, we shall destroy this unkind world".

He pleaded for the abolition of poverty and steadfastly advocated the creation of strong and united India. He stood for a just and equitable society wherein no one goes hungry. Bharati was a great seer and visionary, and we are all indebted to him. Bharati is no more with us, but his dedication, earnestness to raise man to higher and higher values of life, his clarity of vision, still ring in our ears and echo in our hearts.

Bharati was rightly hailed as a poet of freedom, a social reformer and a great visionary. To me, he looks like a great messenger of God, who gave expression to the sufferings of the poor and down-trodden and longed for the dawn of a golden age. He did not live long to see the dawn of

independence as he was snatched away from us at the very young age of thirtynine. But in that very short life, he had undergone many sufferings in the service of the country and its people.

One of our national leaders, Rajaji who translated into English some of Bharati's poems way back in 1928, aptly described Bharati as the poet of freedom and social reform when he said : "Subramania Bharati was the poetical expression of the Indian National awakening of this century, crowned by the unanimous approbation and love of the people. Freedom and equality of the high and the low were the hunger of his soul and the inspiration of all that he sang".

Shrimati Sarojini Naidu, the Nightingale of India in her tributes to Bharati said that, "he has created beauty, not only through the medium of glaring and lovely words but has kindled the souls of men and women by the million, to a passionate love of freedom and a richer dedication to the service of the country".

Bharati was born at a time when, as a consequence of long colonial rule, our countrymen had lost their sense of self-respect. At that crucial phase in the history of our country, Bharati brought courage to the people through his inspiring poetry. In his vision, expressed through the media of poems, he envisaged a free, united, progressive and prosperous India. India is engaged since independence in the uphill task of socio-economic development so that the people may enjoy the fruits of freedom and occupy their rightful place in the comity of nations. Endowed fortunately with an enlightened and progressive leadership, we as a nation can feel proud of our achievements, true to the vision of Bharati and his immortal poetry.

Bharati was one of the earliest of our poets in this century to speak about the oneness of our vast country. His poems extol the best in the traditions of each region and tell us how to mould them together to build a united nation. His teachings are more relevant today and I hope that the Centenary Celebrations will inspire every one of us to rededicate ourselves to the service of the nation. Bharati left us a vast treasure of inspiration and I feel heartened to know that all his writings will be made available through translations to people speaking other languages in our country.

I thank the Chairman of the Committee for inviting me here to this concluding function of the Centenary Celebrations.

A Great Nation-Builder

WE HAVE ASSEMBLED here today to pay homage to the memory of an illustrious son of India. I consider it a great privilege and honour to be associated with this function.

I think it is very difficult to give a full and proper appraisal of the life and activities of Dr. Roy. As Mayor of the Corporation of Calcutta he created history. As Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta and as first non-official President of the Indian Medical Council he made his mark. In politics also, his contribution in the struggle for freedom of India was valuable. But above all, he became a legend as a physician with a reputation spreading far beyond the borders of India and he was acclaimed as one of the greatest luminaries of the medical profession.

His close personal relation with Mahatmaji and Pandit Motilal Nehru involved him in all-India politics and he became associated with various development works of the country not as mere politician but as a nation-builder.

In January 1948, Dr. Roy accepted, with the blessings of Gandhiji, the Chief Ministership of West Bengal at a time when the State was facing Himalayan problems. He became the Chief Minister of West Bengal on the 23rd January, 1948—only a week before Gandhiji's death.

Dr. B. C. Roy had to work hard for the recovery of the socio-economic structure of West Bengal. After partition, West Bengal was a truncated State with two-thirds of the paddy and jute growing areas gone to Pakistan. The legacy of the previous administration left a brutal blow on the socio-economic structure of West Bengal. The State coffer was empty and thousands of people from East Pakistan were coming to West Bengal every day. At this juncture, Dr. Roy became the steward and took over the charge of West Bengal, riddled with so many problems. India witnessed the birth of a remarkable administrator and statesman. During the 14 years of his Chief Ministership, the shattered State of West Bengal attained a sound economic position through nation-building work in every field of development.

It is needless for me to mention to you about Dr. Roy's activities as many of you were his close colleagues and associates. It is in the fitness of things that the Dr. B. C. Roy Memorial Committee was formed to perpetuate his memory. During all these years, the Committee has done valuable work in paying tribute to this great son of our motherland in a constructive way.

The Committee has already built a children's hospital in his memory, the foundation-stone of which was laid by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. They

have created a unique 'Sishu Udyan' which was inaugurated by one of my predecessors, Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed. I am happy to learn that the Udyan is engaged in training 4000 children every year in various games, music, dance, drama, painting, etc. There is also a good children's library and reading room. Apart from training children, the Committee awards many stipends every year to meritorious students in the field of education as well as in various games, athletics and arts. As a part of Dr. Roy's birth centenary programme, a gymnasium has been built.

I think all these constructive activities have been a very befitting memorial to Dr. B.C. Roy. I again pay my tribute to the memory of this great son of India and convey my thanks to Shri Atulya Ghosh and Dr. B.C. Roy Memorial Committee for inviting me to this memorial meeting.

Gospel of Truth

I FEEL VERY happy to be here and associate myself with the inauguration of fifth centenary celebrations of the advent of Shri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. I readily responded to the invitation as my heart is always turned towards the great spiritual leaders of India. I consider myself fortunate in coming over here to have the privilege of participating in this function.

Chaitanya Mahaprabhu had electrified the masses with his message of Bhakti throughout the length and breadth of India. His extensive tour of pilgrimage took him to various parts of the country. India was in a melting pot during the fifteenth century and people were in a state of spiritual confusion and decay. Ritualistic rigidities and sectarian animosities had sapped the energies of the people. There was a compelling need at that time for a concerted attempt to synthesise the warring faiths and bring out the essence of all religions. It was perhaps as an answer, that the 15th and 16th centuries saw a number of saints in all parts of the country, who put new life into the masses by pointing out the oneness of God, despite many seeming descriptions. It is no accident in history that great saints like Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Ramananda, Vallabhacharya, Namdeva, Kabir and Guru Nanak Dev appeared on the horizon of India during this period and preached the gospel of brotherhood and dispelled ignorance. Their teachings emphasised the fundamental truth of all religious faith, i.e. the unity of Godhead and the brotherhood of man. All these saints emphasised that sincerity and devotion are basic essentials for all to pursue, irrespective of caste, religion and economic status. They helped the people to attain spiritual progress through love and devotion. Chaitanya Mahaprabhu

proved and propagated that through love and devotion, song and dance, a state of divine ecstasy could be reached in which the presence of God would be felt. Like his other great contemporaries, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu emphasised purity in thought and action, sincere devotion and service to all living creatures, as the means of God realisation.

Shri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu went round the country on a pilgrimage to spread the message of the ecstasy and efficacy of Bhakti-devotion to the masses and to preach the gospel of love and devotion. These saints of medieval India carried the same divine message of love and devotion, truth and tolerance, service and sacrifice, and sowed the seeds of cultural unity and spiritual rejuvenation of India. Their endless and incessant endeavours form the basis of our present day policy of secularism—respect to all religions and freedom to practise one's religious faith. Narrow outlook and concern with ritualism have been replaced by broad vision and deeper devotion to divinity. Caste rigidity and religious bigotry have yielded place to the new order based on eternal values like truth, love, compassion, service and sacrifice.

Our policy of secularism is based on these eternal values spread by saints like Shri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and many others in all parts of our vast country. These values provide the basic foundation of our unity and integrity as a nation. It is time for us now to reiterate our faith in these fundamental values handed over to us by our saints, gurus, avatars throughout the long course of our country's history and rededicate ourselves to the service of the Nation. We cannot sit idle when evil forces of destruction and disunity are at work. We must resist and defeat the evil forces by keeping ourselves ever vigilant, armed with the lives and teachings of great saints like Shri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.

I thank the organisers for inviting me to this function and giving me an opportunity to pay my respects to this great son of India.

Crusader Against Social Evils

I AM GLAD to be here today to unveil the statue of Raja Ram Mohan Roy. This great son of India, whose 150th death anniversary falls this year, has been variously acclaimed by historians as the "Father of Indian Renaissance" and "path-finder of Modern India". India's independence

and emergence into the modern world were facilitated by the slow, yet sure, transition that took place within the fold of Indian society over a period of more than hundred years since his death and truly Raja Ram Mohan Roy was the forerunner of new India. I feel heartened to note that such a great son of India is being remembered today and his memory is being perpetuated for posterity. He left a deep mark of his personality on the country's history and his life and teachings should inspire future generations.

Many people have written and spoken about Raja Ram Mohan Roy. His tireless efforts for bringing about a radical transformation in the social and religious ideas then prevailing in Indian society, his passionate advocacy in favour of modern education based on science and reason, his preachings of unity of God and brotherhood of men, his contributions to the development of prose writing in Indian languages—these are but a few highlights of his remarkable career. In all these, he was the prophet of the new age characterised by reason and judgement, enlightenment and intellectual activity. Equally worth remembering is his contribution to the movement for the emancipation of women in India and his crusade against the practice of burning of widows on the funeral pyre of their dead husbands. He was a great fighter against the orthodoxy and obscurantism which prevailed in Indian society those days.

What is of enduring significance in Raja Ram Mohan Roy was his global outlook and concern for humanity and human welfare as a whole. He was quite at home with English as he was with Persian, Arabic, Sanskrit, besides his mother-tongue Bengali. An intimate familiarity with all these languages enabled him to understand first-hand not only the religious scriptures of Hinduism, Islam and Christianity but also helped him in keeping in touch with the social and political developments in other parts of the world, especially in the European continent. His replies to the questionnaire issued to him by a Select Committee appointed in 1831-32 by the British Parliament show clearly that Raja Ram Mohan's views on a whole range of economic and political questions centered around the idea that conditions should be created in which modern technology and science could work to bring about social and economic transformation in India.

During his visit to England in the last years of his life, he came in direct contact with the great minds of his age in England and Europe. The great German orientalist Max Muller said about him, "Ram Mohan Roy was the first who came from the East to the West, the first to join hands and complete that world-wide circle through which henceforth, like an electric current, oriental thought could run to the West, and Western thought return to the East". Gurudev Tagore paid tribute to the world vision of Raja Ram Mohan Roy in these words—"He knew that the ideals of human civilisation do not lie in the isolation of independence, but in the brotherhood or inter-dependence of individuals as well as nations in all spheres of thought and activity". We see in him a great world personality working for one world through a

synthesis not only of religions but also of Eastern and Western cultures and civilisations. The spirit of his ideas and ideals is integral to our national values of democracy, secularism and socialism, which we cherish in independent India. Even in foreign policy, our policy of friendship with all and non-alignment is a true translation of Raja Ram Mohan's ideas. Our best tributes to him will be to strengthen the unity of India and the bonds of friendship with all countries.

Bengal has produced many outstanding personalities who enriched the country's thought not only in social and political but in the spiritual field as well. Beginning from Chaitanya Mahaprabhu in the fifteenth century, Bengal has contributed Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Iswarchandra Vidyasagar, Ramkrishna Paramahansa, Swami Vivekananda, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and many others whose contribution to India's all-round advancement is phenomenal. I am confident that the people of Bengal will continue this tradition and remain in the forefront of our national endeavours for strengthening the unity of the country and the progress of the nation.

I thank the Chief Minister of West Bengal for inviting me to this function and giving me an opportunity to offer my tributes to this great son of India.

Link Between Generations

I FEEL GREATLY honoured to be called upon to unveil the statue of the great saint poet Nannaya Bhattaraka in this ancient city of Rajahmundry. Nannaya has been acclaimed as the first poet in Telugu. In our ancient land, poets and scholars were always honoured and respected by people as they used to mirror their feelings, aspirations and achievements. They used to command the respect of the crowned monarchs. They were the bridges of understanding between the sovereign and his subjects and provided the essential link between generations. Many of our great poets, right from the great poet Valmiki onwards, are still fresh in the minds of people. I am told that poet Nannaya who lived here on the banks of sacred river Godavari a thousand years ago — was a counsellor to the great Chalukya King Raja Raja Narendra and was the first grammarian of Telugu language. He enriched it by translating Veda Vyasa's great epic Mahabharata from Sanskrit into the language of the people, Telugu. His greatness consists in the fact that he established a

Speech at the unveiling of the statue of poet Nannaya Bhattaraka and civic reception accorded by Rajahmundry Municipality, July 19, 1983

tradition which is being continued till now. In his own day, Nannaya faced lot of opposition from the orthodoxy which stood against translating Sanskrit epics into local languages. Looked at from this angle, Nannaya was a great social revolutionary and forerunner of many social reformers who later adorned the stage.

We are assembled here to pay our homage to that great poet Nannaya Bhattaraka and I consider it a great privilege for me to have got this opportunity to join you all on this memorable occasion. By taking the initiative in setting up the statue of Nannaya, Guruji Ramalinga Siddanti has rendered great service to Telugu people and indeed the whole country. I am aware that the 10th centenary celebrations of Nannaya were held recently in all parts of Andhra Pradesh. Now, the statue of Nannaya here, where he lived and worked, will stand as a fitting finale for the celebrations.

I see here a glorious example of literary activity reminding us all of the oneness of the Indian people—oneness in sharing common social, cultural and spiritual traditions. The Mahabharata is part and parcel of our national culture as the great epic embodies the noble values this ancient land of ours stands for. It is essentially a message of good prevailing over evil, a message of the futility of war; a message of non-violence and of social harmony and human dignity. It is heartening to learn that Nannaya embarked on the recreation of the Mahabharata in the language of his own people. The Mahabharata being a classic of encyclopaedic dimensions has surpassed all barriers of time and space and become an eternal document. The Andhra Mahabharatam of Nannaya showed to poets how a socially relevant and meaningful literary work could be composed, investing it with rare artistic flavour, and aesthetic charm. Literature has always played a potent role in correcting erring members of society and, I believe, Telugu literature is rich in such purposeful writing. This is the trend in all Indian literatures now. We should conserve and preserve all the good and discard what is irrelevant and impedes social progress. Here is a role for writers and the intelligentsia, and I appeal to all of you to imbibe the essential human spirit which the great Nannaya reflected in his poetry. The tradition laid down by Nannaya has been strengthened by innumerable poets over the last thousand years. It will be appropriate here to recall some of them like Tekkano and Yerrapragada who completed Nannaya's great project; Bhakta Potana of 15th century who rendered Bhagavata Purana into Telugu, and his contemporary Sri Natha who adorned the courts of Reddy Kings as their poet laureate at Kondavidu and Rajahmundry. Thus, Andhras have a great tradition which is an integral part of the mainstream of our national culture. I am sure that you the successors of Nannaya will carry forward this tradition and prove worthy of your great heritage.

I am grateful to the Chairman and Councillors of the Rajahmundry Municipality for their kind thought of giving me a civic reception on this happy occasion of the unveiling of the statue of poet Nannaya. I thank you for the good words mentioned about me in the civic address.

Rajahmundry of Rajamahendra Varam, situated on the banks of sacred Godavari, was the capital of Vengi Chalukya kings and rose to occupy a prominent place as a seat of learning for many centuries. Great poets from Nannaya onwards laid its cultural foundation. In recent memories lived a great social reformer Shri Kandukuri Veerasalingam Pantulu who had initiated many social reforms for the emancipation of women and backward classes. Your town can boast of great freedom fighters like Prakasam, Madduri Annapoornayya, Subba Rao Pantulu and a host of many others.

I am told that Rajahmundry is the hub of all economic activity in this populous district of East Godavari, being the commercial outlet for all the agricultural products of the district, especially the Godavari Delta known popularly as 'Konaseema'. This district is lucky to have a very good irrigation system which was laid 125 years ago, thanks to the initiative of Sir Arthur Cotton. His engineering feat still stands today as a marvel of prosperity. In addition to the old railway bridge you have now a road-cum-railway bridge allowing smooth traffic round the year; I understand that there is going to be another railway bridge here soon and that the construction of a new barrage on Godavari will be completed very soon. All these projects are bound to bring more economic activity and prosperity to the people.

Once again, I thank you all for warm affection showered upon me and I wish you all success in your constructive endeavours.

Great Freedom Fighter

WE ARE GATHERED here today to honour the memory of Simon Bolivar, one of great freedom fighters of Latin America, whose example has been followed by patriots in many other countries for achieving freedom. Bolivar was born in a well-to-do family on July 24, 1783. He travelled to Europe in his youth, where he was influenced by the liberal ideas which were then sweeping across that continent. He deeply imbibed those ideas and acquired the virtues of moral integrity, objectivity, uprightness and sense of justice which distinguished his life and activities. He took a vow

while in Europe that he would fight for the liberation of his country from the colonial yoke.

Bolivar returned from Europe along with another great Venezuelan patriot, Francisco de Miranda, to fight in the war of independence. Bolivar took part in more than 200 battles in Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia against the imperial forces. The final battle set the seal for Venezuela's independence from Spain on July 5, 1821, with the subsequent liberation of Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia—the last country being named after Bolivar. It was for these achievements that Simon Bolivar acquired the title of “The Liberator” throughout Latin America.

Simon Bolivar, for all his military achievements, was essentially a man of peace and a man of ideals, who turned to war as a last resort. He sought political emancipation for the people of Latin America and also social and economic freedom and justice for all. His objective was to create a united Latin American continent and a society governed by the rule of law and enjoying economic, political and social egalitarianism. He endeavoured to bring education within the reach of all, whether rich or poor, noble or humble, young or adult. It was only through universal education that Bolivar felt that the ideals for which he had struggled could take root amongst the people of his continent.

Bolivar was possessed of a strong sense of moral integrity and was an implacable opponent of corruption, indolence and lack of enterprise. This did not endear him to the vested interests that had grown up and which hampered his efforts for social and economic progress, at every stage. He died a pauper at the young age of 47 years, worn out by unremitting toil and after having spent his ancestral fortunes for the cause which he served with such fidelity.

Bolivar was not just a man of his own times. He had served as a beacon light for all those who fought oppression, and for the betterment of peoples through the ages and across the continents. Our own Mahatma Gandhi had a great respect for Simon Bolivar for his dedication to the cause of emancipation of the enslaved and oppressed people. India has joined in the celebrations to honour this great son of Latin America. A stamp has been released in his honour and a road in New Delhi named after him, at functions organized on his Bi-centennial Birth Anniversary on July 24, 1983. We are gathered today to rededicate ourselves to the eternal values espoused by Simon Bolivar. It is a great honour for me to pay tribute to this great leader by inaugurating this Exhibition on his life and work.

I thank His Excellency the Ambassador of Venezuela for inviting me to this function.

Man With a National Outlook

I AM VERY happy to associate myself with this very noble function at which three of India's outstanding constructive workers are being feliciated and honoured for selfless and dedicated service to their fellow countrymen. All the three Award winners are veteran freedom fighters, and they have been quietly serving their country all their life in a real Gandhian spirit. A function such as this reflects the bright side of what is happening in our country.

I greatly appreciate the good work being done by the Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation, which has been set up to keep alive the memory of late Jamnalalji. Jamnalalji himself was a man of sterling qualities. He was a leader in his own right. Yet he preferred to carve out an image for himself as a true devotee and trusted follower of Gandhiji.

When I reflect on the times when the Father of the Nation was stewarding the freedom movement, I cannot help getting awed by the magic influence he wielded over others. Men and women around him were themselves extraordinary. Some of them were giants in their fields. But they accepted Mahatmaji as their leader because they had complete faith in his capacity to lead.

Jamnalalji surrendered himself and his all, without any reservations to Gandhiji and became his "fifth son". He took to the constructive programme launched by Gandhiji because he firmly believed that the real progress of the country would result from those activities. Apart from participating himself, Jamnalalji encouraged several dedicated persons to take to the programme, and enabled them to contribute to the national movement.

In any activity, programme or movement, having a band of followers is very important. It was Jamnalalji's great contribution to our freedom movement that apart from undergoing imprisonment on several occasions, he actually put into practice the values and ideals he learnt from Gandhiji.

It was, therefore, in the fitness of things that the members of his family established the Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation and instituted this scheme of awards. During the last six years, the Foundation has acknowledged the contribution of 16 individuals and 2 institutions engaged in social work in various parts of the country. I am quite sure that more and more people, especially young persons, would be inspired by their example and encouraged to devote themselves to constructive social work, and that too, in rural areas.

I compliment the Trustees of the Foundation for showing thoughtfulness in inviting Dr. Borlaug to perform the awards presentation ceremony. The presence of such an eminent scientist of world-wide repute here lends international character to today's function. Dr. Borlaug's great contribution to the ushering of green revolution in many developing countries including India has made him a great benefactor of mankind. Hunger is man's basic problem. That is why Dr. Borlaug's contribution assumes an elemental significance in human history.

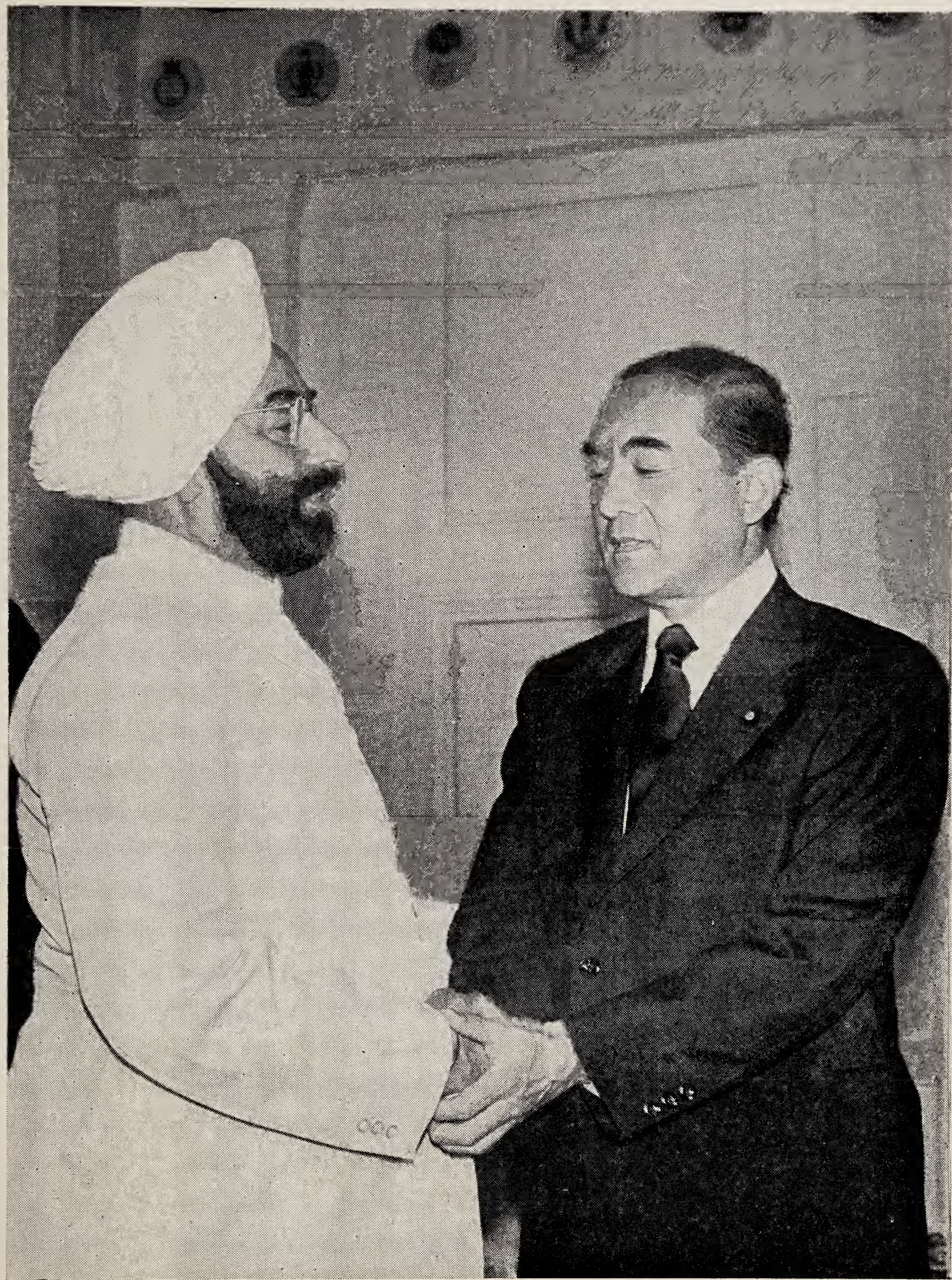
I take this opportunity to offer my sincere congratulations to the recipients. The awards will go a long way to further consolidate their work and the institutions that they have pioneered. In this connection, I may suggest to the Trustees of the Foundation that with the experience collected over the last six years, the Foundation should be in a position to bring out a directory of institutions and individuals working in various parts of the country including the remote areas. I am sure such a directory will be of immense use to everyone connected with voluntary social work. Similarly, the Foundation can bring out a book on the life and activities of all those who have received these awards so far. This book will unfold the story of rural development as brought about by the application of Gandhian principles and techniques.

As you all know, our country is beset with a number of problems — social, cultural, linguistic, economic, political and others. But they are not insoluble. What we require is resoluteness, courage and dedication, such as that displayed by the recipients of these awards. I am convinced that it is only the constructive approach which will enable the country to overcome its difficulties and lay the foundation for a better tomorrow.

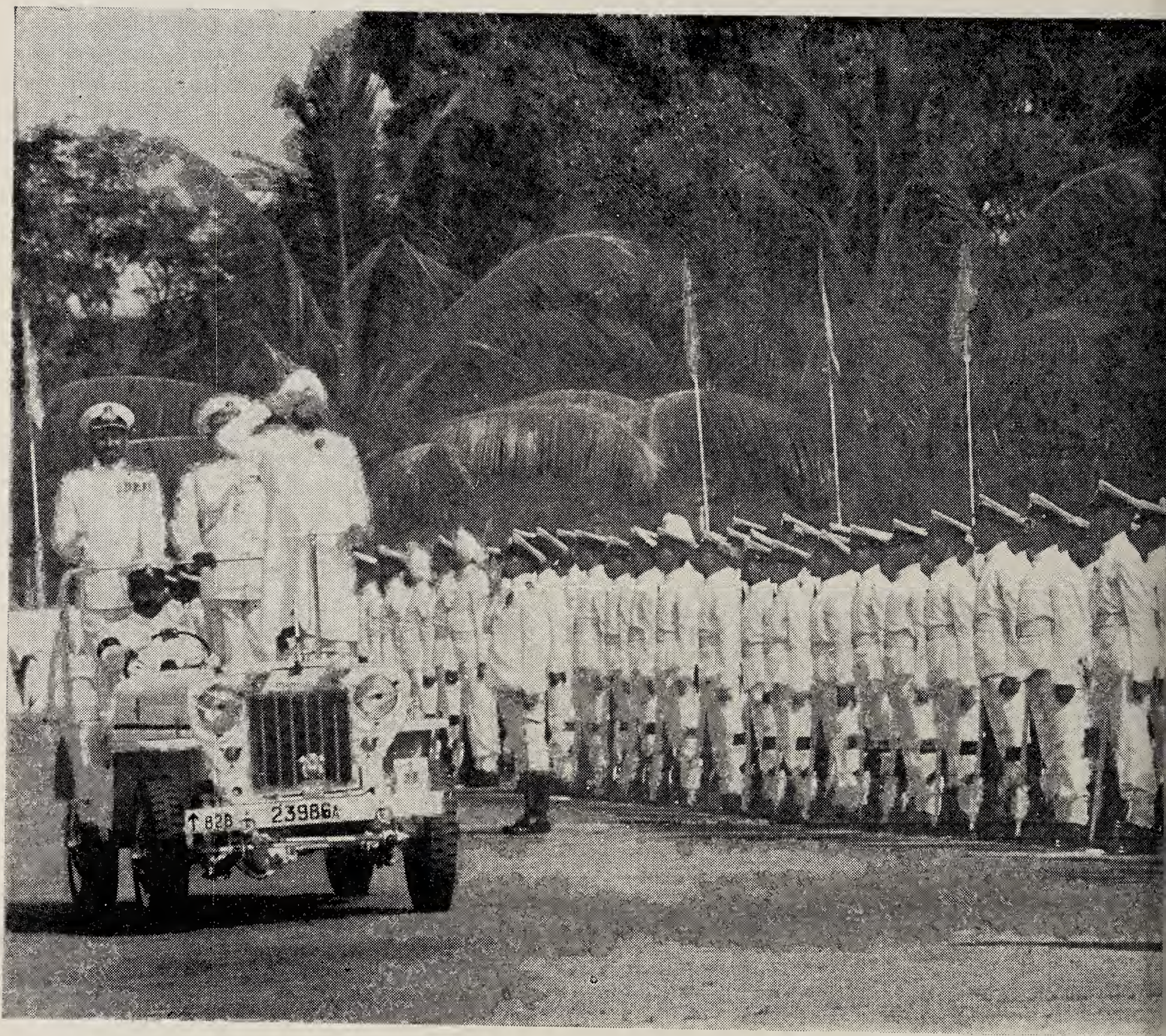
I thank the Chairman of the Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation for inviting me here to preside over this function. Thank you.

Symbol of Humility

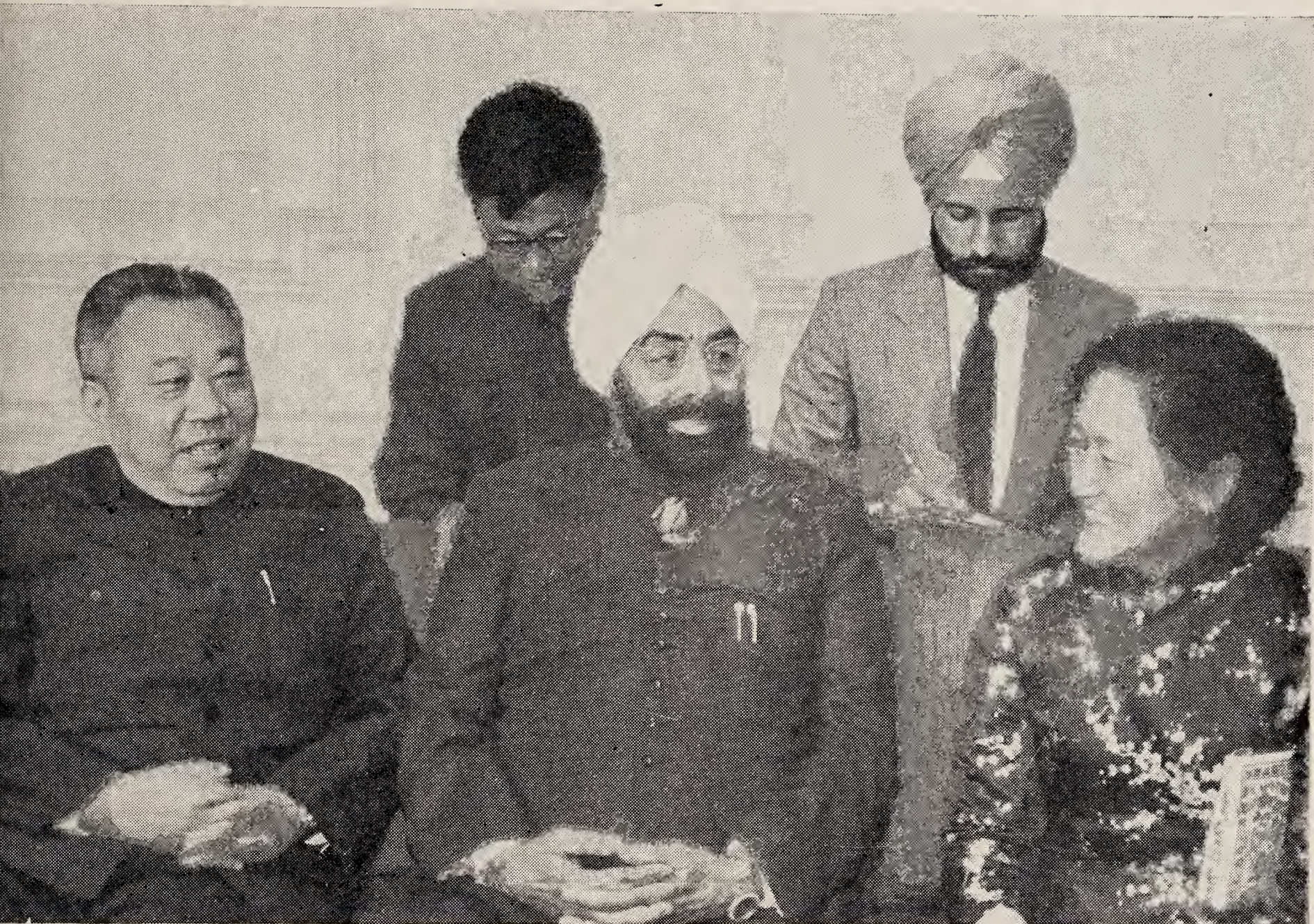
I FEEL VERY happy to be here today and to associate myself with the Centenary Celebrations of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, a great son of India. His life is an open book and many eminent people spoke about him and wrote about him. It was great stalwarts like Rajen Babu, who led our freedom struggle under the guidance of Mahatmaji and laid the foundations for a prosperous future of our country. All of us are here today because



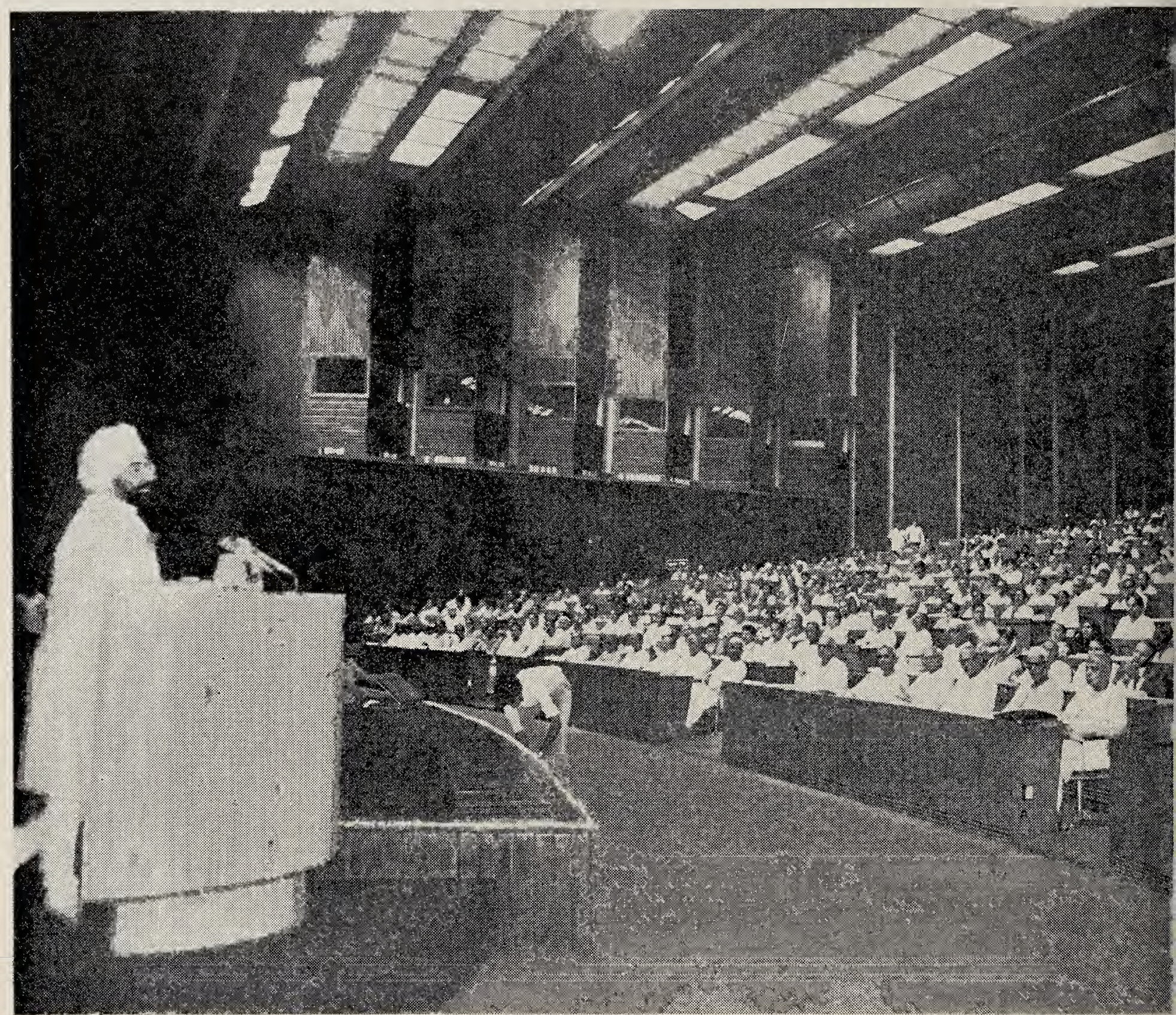
*Welcoming H. E. Y. Nakasone, Prime Minister of Japan,
New Delhi, November 3, 1984*



*Inspecting Parade on the occasion of presenting Colours to Southern Naval Command,
Cochin, November 26, 1984*



Chinese Ambassador in New Delhi called on him, November 30, 1984



Addressing award winning teachers on Teachers' Day, New Delhi

of leaders like Rajendra Prasad, who by their sacrificial struggle liberated the country from foreign rule. This is an occasion for us not only to recall his services to the country and pay homage, but to derive inspiration from his life. He was the very embodiment of the best values cherished in India for centuries. He held many high offices and he showed great humility and understanding in each one of them.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad alongwith Pt. Nehru and Sardar Patel constituted the holy trinity that characterised the Gandhian leadership of our freedom struggle. Even while as a student of Calcutta University in 1908, he organised the Bihari Students' Conference, first of its kind in those days in the whole of India. The greatness of this organisation consists in the fact that the entire political leadership of the following decades in Bihar, came out from this organisation. This was the first manifestation of the organisational skill of Dr. Rajen Babu which later on grew into a legend. The relief services organised for the victims of the devastating Bihar earthquake in 1934 by Dr. Rajendra Prasad were admired even by the ruling British Government and the whole nation took notice of his dexterity. There are many qualities in him which command our attention and respect. His incisive intellect and phenomenal memory; his innate integrity and purity of character; his humility and devotion; his love of humanity and depth of his vision, mark him out as a towering personality. The three qualities—service, renunciation and sacrifice are considered as the peak of achievement in our country and all the three were embodied in Rajen Babu who was rightly acclaimed as *Rajarshi* by one and all in the country.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad's stewardship of the Constituent Assembly stands out as a shining example of his high qualities. His infinite patience and skill, grace and firmness combined with politeness guided and regulated the proceedings of the Constituent Assembly, which gave us the Constitution based on foundations of democracy, and secularism. Thus, not only he helped the birth of Indian Republic—he nursed it in its formative early years as the first President for an unbroken period of twelve years. (Sic.) Like a mother with abundant affection and pride, he brought it up. Surrounded though with pomp and ceremony in Rashtrapati Bhavan, Rajen Babu led a simple life and laid the traditions befitting the dignity of this high office. The traditions laid down by him have been well followed and further enriched by all of my illustrious predecessors who held this highest office in our country.

Our country has travelled very far since it became a sovereign democratic republic in 1950. It has made significant progress on all fronts, despite many obstacles. Politically, the democratic spirit has taken deep roots and democratic institutions have stood the test. Planned economic development has been pursued under successive five year plans, with impressive results in agriculture and industry. A massive infrastructure has been laid for attaining self-sufficiency, the beneficial impact of which is

visible for all. The foodgrains production has more than doubled and the country has achieved self-sufficiency. So much so, India stands today as a prominent country among the comity of nations. Simultaneously, steps have been taken to ensure that the benefits of development are distributed fairly. All this has been achieved within the framework of democratic institutions given by the Constitution.

There are many basic problems yet to be solved like eradication of poverty, hunger and disease. In the last couple of years, the Government have formulated and implemented many crash programmes to tackle these very problems. It is essential to achieve success in this battle against poverty, ensuring stability and strengthening national unity and integration. It is the duty of every citizen to contribute his mite for achieving the goals before the nation. I am sure that the people in Bihar, which has given leaders like Dr. Rajendra Prasad to the nation, will strive to fulfil the dreams of the founding fathers of our Republic.

Before concluding I pay my homage to Dr. Rajendra Prasad once again. I thank the Chief Minister of Bihar for inviting me here today and enabling me to participate in this function.

Imbibe Patriotic Fervour

I AM GLAD to be here today amidst you all in this sacred place and to unveil the statue of late Shri Shiva Prasad Gupta, a distinguished son of our motherland. Late Shiva Prasad Gupta was a great patriot and upheld the cause of communal unity, for which the Bharata Mata Temple constructed by him, stands as a permanent testimony. Many have already spoken about the great qualities which made Shiva Prasad Gupta an illustrious son of India. I feel that it is very appropriate to set up a statue for him which will inspire future generations. In his life time, Shiva Prasad Gupta stood for the great ideals of an independent and united India. What has impressed me most was late Gupta's philanthropy and generosity extended to many educational institutions like Kashi Vidyapeeth and Banaras Hindu University. These institutions which received sustenance through selfless services of late Gupta have enhanced the importance of Varanasi as a centre of learning.

In this context, I would like to emphasise that we derive more happiness when we share with others what we possess—whether it is wealth, knowledge or power. This is our ancient tradition.

Late Shiva Prasad Guptaji did not prefer to lead a leisurely life though born with a silver spoon. At a quite young age, he was inspired by the movement of Swaraj and services to the public. That he spent his life and riches for the realisation of his cherished objectives has been well established by many institutions that he bequeathed to us. Here is an exemplary personality who has left a permanent stamp on our recent history.

The history of our motherland during the last one hundred years is full of sacrifice and struggle by countless number of people in all parts of the country. Born in 1883 just two years before the birth of all India Congress in 1885, late Shiva Prasad Gupta lived through the nationalist movement with all vigour and vitality. India achieved independence in 1947 owing to exceptional sacrifices made by people like him. The institutions left by him to the nation, like the Kashi Vidyapeeth, provided the foundation of the nationalist movement, which has produced many eminent leaders like Dr. Sampurnanand and late Lal Bahadur Shastri. We are fortunate that another illustrious product of Kashi Vidyapeeth, Pandit Kamalapati Tripathiji, is amongst us, serving the people and the country. Mention must be made of another worthy institution—the newspaper *Aaj*—started and developed by Guptaji through which the nationalist movement used to derive its strength. I feel gratified to know that the paper is serving the people as a vehicle of expression. It is indeed very appropriate that a statue has been set up here to perpetuate the memory of Shri Shiva Prasad Gupta. The best way to pay our homage to him is to live up to the ideals of Shri Guptaji—the ideal of a strong, united and prosperous India on the foundations of secularism, socialism and democracy. It is the duty of all of us to strive hard and strengthen these ideals.

With these few words, I thank Shri Shyam Lal Yadav for inviting me here to this function.

Martyrs of Freedom

IT IS A great pleasure for me to be here today to inaugurate this function in which freedom fighters from all over South India have come to pay tributes and homage to Netaji and other martyrs who fought for the freedom of our motherland.

I congratulate the Tamilnadu Freedom Fighters Organisation and the INA, Warrior League, Red Hills, Madras, the organisers of this function

of the South Zonal Freedom Fighters Meet with the sole purpose of paying homage to Netaji and all the martyrs of the Indian freedom struggle.

On this solemn occasion, it is but appropriate that we should remember the patriotic services of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and other martyrs of the freedom struggle. Netaji's life is an inspiring saga of service and sacrifice. The clarion call 'Jai Hind' given by Netaji reverberated throughout the country and came to symbolise the indomitable will of the people to liberate the country from foreign yoke and to become a sovereign nation. Our people will, I fervently hope, rise to the occasion and strive to emulate the illuminating example of Netaji and spread the fragrance of his inspiring ideals and achievements in promoting unity, goodwill, tolerance and mutual understanding. If we are able to imbibe some of the great qualities of Netaji, that would be the greatest tribute that we can pay to this noble son of India. I have no doubt that his life will continue to inspire us for generations to come.

There is another important aspect of work that needs the services of freedom fighters to which I would like to draw your attention. In my Independence Day message to the nation this year, I have outlined a seven-point action plan for strengthening the moral and spiritual foundations of our country. My intention in reiterating them is that they are as vital as material advancement for making our country strong and sound. The moral and ethical principles which sustained our freedom struggle against foreign rule are equally important today in our fight against social, political and economic evils which retard our national progress.

I would like to appeal to all the living freedom fighters all over India to work for strengthening the principles of socialism, secularism and democracy which are basic to our Republic and to maintain the unity and integrity of our nation. To Netaji, nothing was dearer than the freedom and unity of India. Let us resolve to work with redoubled vigour for national unity and national cohesion.

Once again, I congratulate the Tamilnadu Freedom Fighters Organisation for its laudable efforts and I thank the organisers for giving me an opportunity to be with all of you today.

Miscellaneous

An Interesting Hobby

I AM HAPPY to be in this wonderful world of stamps. I congratulate those philatelists who have won prizes and I hope that those who have not made the grade will not lose heart but persevere and put up a better show next time.

During the last century the communications technology has taken giant strides. Very sophisticated hardware now speed the word across the seas and the continents. In this world of satellites and submarine cables the letter mail still retains its pre-eminence. Today an integral part of the letter is the postage stamp. It was not so about 150 years ago. The stamp was born in 1840 out of the desire to reform and rationalise the postal system which was then and still is the most easy and popular means of communications all over the world. Today stamp collecting has become a very educative and vastly interesting hobby. A large number of people, rich and poor alike, all over the world have taken to this hobby and have derived considerable intellectual satisfaction from it. With the growing interest in postage stamps, the postal administrations realised the potential of these small bits of paper as silent emissaries traversing geographic and national barriers without let or hindrance. And the stamps were exploited to project the heritage of a nation, as well as the aspirations of its people. They have increasingly come to bear the imprint of a nation's culture and vision.

Since independence, the P & T Department has been issuing stamps depicting our socio-cultural heritage, the saga of our struggle for independence under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. Our stamps have focussed attention on the need to conserve our natural heritage. They have highlighted our technological and scientific achievements. India is the only country which pays philatelic tribute to the valiant members of its armed forces regularly every year. Alongwith projecting our rich past, dynamic present and bright future through the stamps, the P & T Department has held a large number of philatelic exhibitions in the past. Both have helped to strengthen the interest in philately in the country. I am happy that besides the activities within the country, the Indian philatelists have been increasingly winning laurels in the international exhibitions held abroad.

As you all know the philately is a source of education and it is inexpensive. These factors make it ideally suited for the children, who through the study of stamps collected by them can gain knowledge about our country as well as the world around us. There is need to popularise it among the school going population of our country. For this purpose,

it will be necessary to first educate the teachers about the potentials of philately. Once they are got involved, efforts should be made to form stamp clubs in schools and colleges. In order to make it a countrywide movement, the P & T Department should take a lead in the matter and through its net work of philatelic bureaux it should assist and guide the school and college authorities in this matter. I am sure once philately as a hobby catches on in a big way in our educational institutions, it will not only be educative but also foster friendship and goodwill among boys and girls from different parts of the country. Philately, through exchanges of philatelic material, can surely act as a cementing force in the country.

I congratulate the Minister of Communications and the President Philatelic Congress of India, on the success of the 4th National Philatelic Exhibition. I also thank him for inviting me to share this happy occasion with you.

Place of Stalwarts

I AM VERY glad to be here today with all of you. I have visited this great city many times earlier but this is my first visit after assuming the office of President of India. I am deeply touched by the warm welcome extended to me and I am grateful to you Mr. Mayor for the kind words you have said about me in your Civic Address.

As I stand here before you, my mind goes back to those days in the freedom struggle in which Bombay played a significant and proud role. It was here that the All India Congress led by Mahatma Gandhi passed the famous and historic 'Quit India' resolution in August, 1942, which soon resulted in a mass upsurge throughout the country with gigantic proportions. Similarly, it was here that the concept of planning for economic development of the country took a concrete shape which became popularly known as the Bombay Plan. The citizens of Bombay can feel justifiably proud of their city as it gave birth to many stalwarts of our freedom struggle and became a spring board of political action for many freedom fighters.

Your city occupies a place of pride in our country's onward march towards industrial development. Seeds of industrialisation were sown here first. In this connection, I would like to recall the services of many great thinkers like Dadabhai Nauroji and pioneering industrialists like Jamshedji Tata. In addition to its traditional industries like textiles, engineering, ship-building, in recent years Bombay has added to its glory oil production

also. What is of great interest to an outsider visiting Bombay is not only its cosmopolitan character but also its beautiful Marine Drive with its glitter and glamour of film industry. The constant movement of incoming and outgoing cargo ships helping smooth flow of goods and services has made this port city the commercial capital of India while the location of vital financial institutions including the Reserve Bank of India has enabled it to claim the position of financial capital of India. The city has been aptly described as the Gateway of India.

The Municipal Corporation of Bombay has a long record of service and rich tradition and become a byword in running the civic administration with efficiency. I would like especially to commend your efforts towards the improvement of slum areas. I am sure, Mr. Mayor, that you and your colleagues will face the numerous problems and solve them as efficiently and specially as in the past with cooperation from the Government and the people. I hope that Bombay will strive to maintain its position as the nerve-centre of country's development.

I thank you, Mr. Mayor, once again for the honour you have accorded me today. I will remember the warmth of your affection forever. I wish you and your colleagues all success in your constructive endeavours in future.

Awakening in Sports

I AM DELIGHTED to be here with you this afternoon on the occasion of the inaugural ceremony of the East Centre of the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports in the sports loving city of Calcutta. It is only befitting that this Centre, which is to serve the cause of sports generally in the country and in the eastern part of the country in particular, is being inaugurated on the 23rd January which is the birthday of our respected and beloved leader, the late Netaji Subhas, after whom the National Institute of Sports is named. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose dedicated his entire life to the freedom of the country. His spirit of adventure and sacrifice is an inspiration to us all, especially the younger generation. Netaji dreamt of a strong, united and free India with healthy people, sound in body and mind. I have no doubt that the Netaji Subhas Institute of Sports will play its part in the fulfilment of this dream.

The Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports which was established at Patiala in 1961, has been growing in size and activities in the last 22

years. It has produced over 5,000 coaches and has also helped the National Sports Federations in the country in training and coaching their teams and competitors. It has already got a South Centre inaugurated on this very day last year at Bangalore to serve the particular needs of the Southern Region in the field of games and sports. With the setting up of an East Centre at Calcutta—I have every hope that the Institute's usefulness for service to the nation in the field of games and sports will increase further.

Very recently, we held the IX Asian Games at New Delhi. These Games were acclaimed a great success. The entire nation is full of praise for all those who worked for the organisation and conduct of these Games. The Netaji Subhas National Institute also played with credit its allotted role in this challenging task of international importance.

The performance of our teams and competitors in these Games was better than ever before and our sportsmen got as many as 57 medals as against 28 in the last Asian Games held at Bangkok in 1978. For this improved performance, the Department of Sports, the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports, the National Sports Federations and the Indian Olympic Association deserve our appreciation. However, we have to remember that we have still to improve our performance and raise it to a level that is expected of a country of our size and population. We have, therefore, seriously to consider as to what steps, within the resources that can be made available for the promotion of sports in the context of our national priorities, should be taken with regard to the proper selection, methods of coaching and training, physical conditioning, diet etc. of our teams and competitors.

As a result of the successful holding of the Asiad '82 and the various steps taken by Government and various sports organisations, the public awareness of the value of sports has grown. More and more people in the country are getting emotionally involved in the performance of our teams in international competitions. Therefore, no efforts should be spared in improving our sports performances. The National Sports Federations, the State Governments, Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports, the All India Council of Sports and the Department of Sports at the Centre have all to play an important role in achieving the national objective of sports promotion.

The importance that the Central Government attaches to the promotion of sports and the raising of sports standards in the country can be judged from the fact that it has set up a separate Department of Sports and incurred substantial expenditure on creating infrastructure and facilities of international standards for Asiad '82, which are now available for the youth of the country. It is necessary that these facilities and infrastructure are well maintained and put to optimum use.

State Governments have a special responsibility for the promotion of sports in their respective areas and for providing necessary sports facilities in educational institutions as well as for the general public. I am very happy that for setting up the East Centre of Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports, the Government of West Bengal has developed the Salt Lake area, provided funds for the creation of required sports facilities, and is also facilitating the construction of a big Football Stadium with a capacity of more than one lakh in its vicinity. I hope that this Centre will go a long way in fulfilling the long felt sports needs of the people of the eastern part of our country. I have no doubt that steps will be taken to see that not only more sports infrastructure and facilities are provided to meet the growing needs of our young men and women but also that these facilities are well looked after and put to continuous and proper use in the future.

With these words I have great pleasure in inaugurating the East Centre of the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports and in dedicating it to the sportsmen and women of the country, in particular of the eastern region.

Impetus to Sports

I AM DELIGHTED to be here today for laying the foundation stone of the cricket stadium sponsored by the Gujarat Cricket Association. The construction of this stadium here fulfils a long cherished desire of the sports-loving people of Gujarat. The Gujarat Cricket Association, affiliated to the Central Board of Cricket in India, has a long record of history since it was established in 1933-34 and it is heartening to know that it is participating in all the national level Cricket tournaments like the Ranji Trophy and other trophies for boys of different age groups. The Government of Gujarat deserves to be congratulated for their generous gesture in allotting a fifty acre plot for the construction of a modern stadium.

There has been a marked revival of interest and renewed enthusiasm in our country for sports and games, which got a further impetus from the successfully conducted ninth Asian Games in our capital city of Delhi, a couple of months ago. There is now a full-fledged Department of Sports in the Union Government charged solely with the responsibility of developing sports in the country in a planned manner. Last month I had inaugurated the Eastern Centre of the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports in Calcutta on the occasion of the birthday of Netaji Subhas

Chandra Bose. This Centre is to meet the training and other sports requirements of all the States in the Eastern India. A similar such centre to cater to the needs of all the four Southern States is fast coming up at Bangalore.

Sports and sportsmanship are very essential for the growth of our country. Periodical tournaments and sports meets in different parts of the country every year will make a solid contribution to our national integration and strengthening the bonds of unity. It is the spirit of sportsmanship and friendly rivalry that should inform and influence every aspect of our national endeavour. Team spirit and discipline, which are necessary to compete in sports are the two qualities that should be imbibed by all, especially the youth of our country, who will have to shoulder the burdens in future.

Cricket has become very popular in our country and public enthusiasm is increasing year by year. Gujarat and Maharashtra have made a great contribution in the past for the development of Cricket and many test players belong to this part of the country. I feel heartened to know that the present stadium will be completed by October, 1983 and a Cricket test between India and West Indies will be played here in the coming season. It is very gratifying to note that the proposed stadium, with extra facilities, will be utilised for the development and promotion of other games and sports also like tennis, swimming, billiards, badminton and table-tennis. I am sure that with the completion of this stadium and provision of other sports facilities Gujarat will come to occupy a prominent place in the field of sports along with other States in the country.

May I suggest that along with the development and promotion of sports, efforts should also be made to revive and develop rural sports. There are many typically Indian sports, which are still very popular in our rural areas. Kabaddi, kho-kho, gulli-danda are some such which are commonly played in all parts of the country, though known by different names. I feel that we owe a duty to develop them and not to allow them to perish for want of encouragement and patronage. These will help in developing a sense of oneness among the people and strengthen the foundation of our existing bonds of unity.

I thank the President of the Gujarat Cricket Association and the Chief Minister for inviting me here to lay the foundation stone of this stadium. I wish it speedy completion.

Impressive Economic Growth

I AM VERY happy to be here and feel honoured with the reception you have accorded to me. I have been quite familiar with Arunachal Pradesh and its people earlier as Home Minister of India. This is my first visit to your beautiful territory which is rightly named as the land of the rising sun. I thank you for the good words mentioned about me and I will never forget the hospitality and warmth which you have showered on me very generously.

Arunachal Pradesh has made considerable progress in the last ten years since its attainment of Union Territory status in 1972. I feel impressed by the economic progress of Arunachal Pradesh within the traditional life pattern of the people who love art, music and dance. I must make a special mention about the expert weavers of Arunachal who distinguished themselves with distinct and highly artistic design. I am highly pleased that these distinct skills are not only being preserved but further enriched with new designs. I visualise a bright future for these artistic skills, which will find wider outlets following the expansion in transport and communication facilities.

It is not necessary to narrate a barrage of statistics to identify the rapid economic growth achieved by Arunachal Pradesh in recent years. It is visible to the naked eye in every sphere of human endeavour whether it is agriculture or industry. The traditional industries like weaving, carpet making and so on are being encouraged with the underlying developmental philosophy of "developing people along the lines of their own genius". There is a vast potential for development and I am confident that this will be vigorously utilised for the benefit of the people of Arunachal.

I am aware of the special needs and problems of the State and I assure you that these are receiving the earnest attention of Government. It is very heartening to know that the annual plan outlay for this year 1983-84 has been stepped up to Rs. 52.8 crores from Rs. 44 crores last year. This increase in the plan outlay by 20 percent is itself a sign of increasing tempo of economic development. The State, endowed with vast natural wealth, has registered significant progress in agriculture. I hope that the whole territory will become an orchard with increasing production of many varieties of fruits. A bright future is ahead of the people of Arunachal Pradesh. Many of the problems like adequate communications will be soon solved, I hope, alongwith the development of the new Capital complex that is fast coming up. This will expedite the process of development of the people of Arunachal Pradesh and enable them increasingly to make their contribution to the progress and prosperity of the nation as a whole.

I thank the Lt. Governor and the Chief Minister for inviting me here and giving this opportunity to talk to you. I wish you all well.

Scope of Public Administration

I AM HAPPY to be here today in this historic and beautiful city for the dedication of the new building of the Harish Chandra Mathur State Institute of Public Administration. Your institute is named after the late Shri Harish Chandra Mathur who was a great patriot, a seasoned administrator and a distinguished parliamentarian. By naming your institute after him you have only done honour to yourself. I hope this new building will reflect your continued dedication to the memory of his name. On this occasion, I join you all in paying my tribute to the late Shri Harish Chandra Mathur.

The scope of administration of today has vastly changed. It is commonly said that administration has grown in size and complexity. At the same time the major concern of the country and its leadership is to better serve the people, more specially those who still belong to the not so privileged sections of the society. It is therefore necessary to reiterate that today the main task of administrators is to be conscious of these concerns before the country. Your institute has a key role to play in preparing administrators for these tasks.

Government's commitment to training of public officials is well-known. We have always believed that training in Government is important and Government officials at all levels need to be trained not only to perform their present jobs better but to prepare for the new tasks ahead.

I feel that training for officials in Government is not only to provide knowledge or skills. Training should finally help officials to improve their performance and be responsive to the aspirations of the people. The development tasks before the Government are today wide and pervasive. Time is of essence in the implementation of development plans and programmes. It is, therefore, necessary that public servants understand that better on-the-job performance leading to still better service of the people is the need of the hour. I hope that the training by your institute is designed to meet this over-riding concern.

Nothing can be more challenging for training in government than the rapid growth in scope, diversity and complexity of administration. The new tasks before administration require an increasing degree of specialisation

skills and techniques—inputs which training can provide. In fact, training in Government is essential to push development—initiate it, accelerate and strengthen it. Training can thus become an instrument for achieving the transformation needed for development. Viewed in this light training is more than conducting programmes or discussing techniques. It is the harbinger of change.

Training to be effective must respond creatively to the needs of Government. It must have relevance to the problems before the administration. Training should be an action-oriented activity and should not be conceived in isolation from the administrative tasks. It needs organisational support to become the initiator of organisational change. In this background, training can provide the basis for the much needed administrative adequacy for efficiency and development. I hope that your training institute will strive to be worthy of these challenging tasks.

Institutions are not built in a day. Institution-building is a long and continuing process during which often some institutions fall by the way side, while others which have leadership and dedication march ahead. A training institution or for that matter any other institution, is more than brick and mortar. It is a living entity in as much as the institution, must have a cause and a purpose. In the case of your institution it can be the wider national purpose of serving the people through better and efficient administration.

In the background of a national purpose, the output of a institute like the Harish Chandra Mathur State Institute of Public Administration cannot be appraised in terms of number of training courses because numbers can be misleading. Your output will be finally measured by the improvement in the level of public services brought out as a result of your training. This is the crux of your role and your effectiveness.

Your institute has to accept these challenges and work hard to meet them before you can justify yourself before the public. It should not be forgotten that your funds are public funds and they can as well be used alternatively for other competing development projects.

In my long years in public service I have always encouraged administrators to serve the people because this is essential and in the interest not only of individuals but of the Government at large. Induction and refresher training has an important role in this direction. It seems that the administrators of today are a lucky lot to have so many training opportunities available to them. While optimum use must be made of all the training opportunities available to administrators, it is equally necessary to constantly endeavour to still improve the quality of training in Government.

It is in this context and background, that the role of an institution like your State Institute of Public Administration becomes important. You have many years of service to the State to your credit. I hope you will

continue to serve the cause of better administration with still greater vigour and strength in this new beautiful building. I give you my best wishes and blessings for the continued success of your efforts — an effort which should ultimately improve performance and thereby ensure timely achievement of the national goals of development.

Tourists' Paradise

I AM DEEPLY grateful to you for your kind thought of extending civic reception to me and the generous sentiments expressed in your civic address. I had been to this beautiful capital city of Karnataka many times earlier in various capacities, but this is my first visit as President of India. I thank you Mr. Mayor very much for the good words mentioned about me and I will never forget the warmth of the welcome and hospitality extended to me.

I like Bangalore for more than one reason. Its climate is very balanced and salubrious; its people are extremely hospitable and highly cultured. Tradition and modernism are marching in step harmoniously, and I take it that the whole State of Karnataka reflects the same spirit. Perhaps this is owing to the great legacy left by enlightened rulers and their far-sighted Diwans before independence. In this context, I would like to pay my tributes to that great engineer, administrator, statesman and planner, Bharat Ratna Shri M. Visveswarayya, who laid the modern infrastructure for the progress of the State, in agriculture as well as industry.

It is very heartening to know that the spirit of secularism, cosmopolitan culture and welfare of the common man, has taken deep roots in the soil of Karnataka, planted and nurtured by successive generations of benevolent rulers and progressive administrators. The people of erstwhile princely State of Mysore have had valuable experience in running representative forms of Government even before India became independent. Thanks to the constructive endeavours by them, Karnataka had a good start and today it stands in the forefront of national progress, and with its characteristic vigour and vitality is playing its role in the process of development of the country as a whole.

Like all other towns in our vast country, Bangalore has expanded enormously since independence. Many modern industries like aircraft manufacturing and watch-making and production units for various electronic goods are located here, attracting people from all parts of the country

to come and work here in a spirit of comradeship. It is this cosmopolitanism that sustains our national spirit and strengthens the bonds of our unity. All this has become possible because Bangalore has grown to be a city of science and technology, with its many institutions of higher learning in science and technology.

I would like to congratulate the civic authorities on their good performance in administering a fast growing industrial city like Bangalore. It is a well known fact that concentration of industries and consequent pollution is giving rise to many problems affecting the health of residents. As you all know, one way to reduce the evil effects of pollution is to improve the environment by increasing vegetation. Bangalore is famous for its avenues and parks containing thick vegetation. As a garden city, it is a paradise for tourists being a naturally air-conditioned city. I understand that the State Government have recently prepared a scheme to create a green belt around Bangalore and to plant 75 lakh trees this year as a part of it. It is heartening to know that the Slum Clearance Board is going to be further strengthened so as to make it a more effective instrument of service to the weaker sections of society. I am sure that the civic authorities will endeavour to put extra emphasis on this important aspect and enrich the environment further.

I would like to place before you some thoughts regarding local self-government bodies such as municipalities and corporations which are responsible for administering the programmes of education, health, sanitation and other development works. I feel that their functioning could become more effective if election to these bodies were held on non-party basis. They differ widely from the functionings of State-Legislatures and Union Parliament. I feel that this matter deserves to be studied indepth by intellectuals, political leaders, legal experts and social workers.

I thank you, Mr. Mayor, once again for having given me an opportunity to be here today and share a few thoughts. I shall cherish the memory of your warm reception. I wish you success in your constructive endeavours.

Shaping the Destiny

I AM GLAD to be here today and to unveil the statue of Chatrapati Shivaji. I have been associated with this for a long time now and it is a matter of great pleasure that the efforts have culminated in setting up this statue. It is common knowledge now that Chatrapati Shivaji

played a great historic role in shaping the history of modern India and it is the duty of the present generation to perpetuate his memory and take inspiration from his life and teachings. He rose in revolt against an oppressive regime on behalf of the peace-loving people and became an exemplary warrior with great qualities of head and heart. He was not only the beloved son of Maharashtra, he belongs to the whole of India for it was he who showed the way to fight against exploitation and injustice. At the same time, his respect for all religious faiths and concern for the weak and down-trodden sections of society have been models for the present generation to emulate. His adventurous deeds of valour and acts of chivalry are quite well known to us all. We should all refresh our knowledge about his great personality and leadership qualities and take inspiration from his genius.

Maharashtra and the people of Maharashtra occupy a very prominent place in India's history. The sons of Maharashtra have distinguished themselves in every walk of life, with their unique contributions to India's thought and culture over the past many centuries. Great saints like Namadeva, Jnaneswar, Shirdi Sai Baba were born here and preached universal brotherhood and service to man. In the same manner great leaders were born and raised the banner of freedom. Chatrapati Shivaji was the one who raised the flag of freedom against subjugation. In the recent years, Maharashtra produced a number of leaders who have shaped the destinies of our freedom struggle and carved a place of distinction in the country. In this connection, I would like to recall the services of great leaders like Lokamanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Gopalkrishna Gokhale, Maharshi Karve, Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, Acharya Vinoba Bhave and a host of others, whose services to Mother India will be long remembered and will inspire future generations.

Chatrapati Shivaji's life was a great and thrilling story of the 17th century. He led a life full of struggle and sacrifice; of fulfilment and achievement. His whole life from birth in 1627 to death in 1680 was full of ceaseless activity. In this connection I would like to recall the influence of his mother Jijabai and guardian Dadaji Kanadev on Shivaji's life. It was his mother who inculcated love of freedom in the young mind of Shivaji; while from his guardian, he imbibed the two great qualities — the spirit of initiative and self-reliance.

Chatrapati Shivaji's qualities as a leader and ruler are more important for us to remember and emulate. His respect for all religious faiths, his sense of justice and fair play, his concern for the oppressed and the down-trodden, his veneration for women — as mothers — these qualities of Chatrapati which shaped his policy and polity, constitute the foundations on which stands firmly the democratic, socialist and secular Republic of Free India. The saints and leaders of Maharashtra have immensely

enriched Indian thought over the last many centuries and left us great legacy. It is our sacred duty to preserve and further enrich that tradition.

I have been closely associated with the Committee on Chatrapati Shivaji for the last few years and I deem this as a rare and unique opportunity to be called upon to unveil the statue of this great son of India. I appeal to the youth of India and Maharashtra in particular to take inspiration from the life and teachings of this great leader for service to our motherland.

Eradication of Leprosy

I AM GLAD to be here with you all and to inaugurate the Twelfth International Leprosy Congress.

I have great pleasure in welcoming you to my country and to this beautiful historic city, Delhi. This city depicts the culture of both ancient and modern ages. I recall this in the context of the Twelfth International Leprosy Congress as there have been numerous references of this disease, leprosy and its cure, in our ancient books written by Charaka, Sushruta, Manu and others. From times immemorial this disease has always been associated with social isolation and ostracism which was borne out of ignorance. The victims of leprosy in addition to their physical deformities had to carry a load of social ostracism which perhaps attracted noble hearts to extend their hands of compassion to provide solace to the victims of this disease.

In Indian medicine system there are references to this disease and its cure. References also reveal status of medical treatment in those days which was no less functional. Even the use of Chalmogra oil which was revived only in the late 19th century was known during the time of Sushruta in 600 B.C.

In the 14th and 15th centuries, the disease had assumed menacing levels in the West. The Lazar houses built for these patients in the West are still seen in some of the countries. Even in our country, saints and sages, like Shri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Guru Nanak, Kabir and others could share the misery and agony of these patients and generate a movement for the social rehabilitation of these victims. This only shows that our ancient sages had rightly understood the human aspect of the problem of leprosy and its solution to counter the prejudices.

Fortunately in our country which is one of the worst affected we have had social personalities like Mahatma Gandhi, W. Bailey and a host of their followers who made exemplary sacrifices in championing the cause of leprosy patients. Bharat Ratna Mother Teresa, Baba Amte, Padmashri Bhagat Puran Singh and many other social workers are shining examples in that direction during the present times. Doctors and medicines alone are not enough in providing cure for this disease like in the case of other well known ailments. A spirit of total dedication with self-less service to humanity is absolutely necessary on the part of social workers to afford help and cure.

The Government of India is very much alive to the depth and dimension of this problem. Right from the first Five Year Plan, we have been placing emphasis on the need for eradication of this disease. Several facilities in clinical field and research are being provided by the Government. Our Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi has already dwelt at length on this subject. Therefore, I feel that it is not necessary for me to speak in detail.

Voluntary organisations both International and National have done yeoman services in the past and continued to do this effectively at present. I am confident that in the deliberations during this week, there will be useful transaction of scientific knowledge, exchange of thoughts and ideas to put up a common front to achieve our common goal—"Total eradication of leprosy by the turn of the century". I have great pleasure in inaugurating this Twelfth International Leprosy Congress.

I thank the Union Minister and the leaders of the International Leprosy Congress for inviting me here.

Development of Shipping

I AM INDEED happy that at the invitation of the Chairman of the National Shipping Board, Shri M. R. Krishna, I am here today to inaugurate the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the National Shipping Board.

I am happy to learn that the Board inaugurated in April 1959, by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India has completed full twenty-five years and during this period it has played an important role in the maritime development of our country. I do not say this as a matter of convention but in full realisation of the enormous progress made by Indian

Shipping since then. On the eve of independence in 1947, we had a mere 2 lakhs of gross registered tonnage whereas today our gross registered tonnage is a little over 6 million tonnes. This is not a mean achievement and, in this stupendous task, the role of the National Shipping Board has been great indeed. It is a matter of joy to know that today the country ranks amongst the leading maritime nations and serves as the chief spokesman of developing countries in international forums.

This is something that will no doubt stir the pride of every true national of this country. I feel happy too that at this function we have the participation of pioneering shipowners, leading representatives of shipping, Members of the Board and several other eminent experts in different related fields. I am happy to share with them a sense of pride in the giant strides made by the shipping in this country.

India had a rich maritime past. She has been a seafaring nation through centuries. In the distant past, the Indian ships carried our merchandise to the countries in the East and the West more especially to the South East Asian countries like Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and so on. One can see even to this day the rich heritage of our life and culture left behind by our forefathers in these distant lands. In the telling words of Mahatma Gandhi, "Indian shipping perished so that foreign shipping could flourish". The development of Indian shipping, therefore, is purely a post-independence phenomenon. One may go a step further and say that Indian shipping took its rebirth after independence in 1947. Since shipping is a capital intensive industry, Government also set up Shipping Corporations in public sector. Today one of the biggest shipping companies in the world is the Shipping Corporation of India, which together with another public sector shipping company owns nearly 55% of the total Indian tonnage. I must point out that the enterprising skill of private Indian shipowners is second to none and these shipowners, alongwith the public sector companies have helped in increasing the shipping tonnage of the country.

However, the most potent assistance rendered by Government which catalysed the quick development of Indian shipping is the concessional loan facilities extended by the Shipping Development Fund Committee—an institution set up under the Merchant Shipping Act. Both the National Shipping Board and Shipping Development Fund Committee are performing complementary functions—one helping the formulation of shipping policies and the other helping in its actual implementation. The common objective before both is to foster the development and ensure the efficient maintenance of an Indian mercantile fleet to serve the national interests. I am glad to learn that the two organisations are playing their respective roles effectively.

Government also have been extending assistance to procure cargo and trade routes for Indian shipping. It has started several bilateral services, the most important of which is the service with the USSR. Government have

not spared any efforts to set up training institutions for navigating officers, marine engineers and ratings, Simultaneously, Seamen's Employment Offices were also established to regulate employment of seamen. All these efforts have enabled us claim that we are a seafaring nation with ancient maritime traditions.

I am aware that a very useful Seminar was held by the National Shipping Board in December, 1982, to take stock of our achievements as well as shortcomings with a view to find possible solutions to various problems. The Seminar was rightly styled 'Changing phase of Shipping Industry—Strategy for Development'. It is a matter of satisfaction to know that the Seminar has helped in indentifying shortcomings and take suitable remedial measures. Shipping is international in character and unless the nation moves with the times we would be left behind. As it is, for want of fully constainerised vessels of our own and the inadequacy of our existing vessels, I am told that, we are fast losing our legitimate share in the general cargo trade to the foreign container operators. Added to this is the continuing unprecedented recession, which is a world-wide phenomenon. However, I am told that Indian shipping has not fared as badly as other world shipping because of the cargo assistance being extended by the TRANSCHART organisation of the Government. Notwithstanding all this assistance, Indian shipping companies as a whole have suffered serious losses. I am sure that their request for effective assistance will receive sympathetic consideration from the authorities.

Taking an optimistic view I feel that the present recession may not last long. On the other hand long term development of our fleet seems to be the call of the hour. While inaugurating the first session of the National Shipping Board in April 1959, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru despaired of the huge drain of foreign exchange from the country towards freight paid to foreign shipping companies for transport of our cargo. He rightly emphasised the need for self-reliance both in shipping and shipbuilding. We have advanced much in acquiring our own ships for carriage of our cargo in many trades but still we have to make further headway in specialised trades. I am happy to know that the National Shipping Board has already addressed itself to this task.

Looking to the developments so far, I am confident that the National Shipping Board, comprised of experts from several integrated fields, would continue to render valuable service to Government in the future development of Indian shipping.

With these few words, I wish the National Shipping Board all success in its continued path of progress. I thank the Minister for Shipping and the Chairman of the National Shipping Board for inviting me to this function.

Arjuna Awards

IT GIVES ME great pleasure to be amongst you all-distinguished sports persons and sports lovers for honouring our outstanding sportsmen and women who have won Arjuna Awards by their outstanding performance. These sportsmen and women have by excelling in the different disciplines of sport, set examples for others to follow not only in the field of competition but also in the matter of discipline, sportsmanship and comraderie. I congratulate the Award winners for their achievements.

Ever since independence, planned efforts have been made to harness our resources and to ensure all-round development of the country. Without harnessing of natural resources, development is, of course difficult; but without harnessing human resources, development is impossible. There are many countries in the world which have few natural resources but which have reached an advanced level of development simply because they have been able to harness their human resources properly. It is, therefore, necessary for us to pay adequate attention to the improvement of our human resources by upgrading the all-round quality of the individual so that his contribution to our development is increased. The individual can contribute to development meaningfully with education as well as physical fitness. A strong nation must have citizens who are physically fit. In this, sports play a major role. It has been recognised that it is necessary to promote sports in the country in a massive way.

There is also need to lay stress on improving our sports standards so that the country's presence is felt in the world of sport. In order, therefore, to have a large number of people in the country performing at high standards in sports, it is necessary to carry sports and games to every town, every village and indeed to every home. Mass participation in sports, therefore, is a must not only for the health, fitness and strength of the nation, but also for raising our sports standards. Two things in this connection are obviously necessary. Minimum sports facilities such as playfields, indoor halls etc. need to be provided in villages and towns for the people at large and, at the same time, sports consciousness created among them so that, once the sports facilities have become available, the people feel motivated to put them to use. I am happy to note that IX Asian Games held in Delhi have had a positive effect in making people sports conscious. The Asian Games have been followed by increasing coverage of sports events by the media including Doordarshan and the Akashvani. A lot more, however, needs to be done and we should ensure that sports and sports consciousness become a part of

our educational system. Given the basic facilities and sports consciousness, I see no reason why we should also not become a nation advanced in sports.

While we are busy building the edifice of sports in the country, we have also to see that the existing sports facilities are not wasted but are rather utilised fully. It is absolutely necessary to preserve the existing playfields whether in educational institutions or in public places so that the new generation of children and young people is not denied their use as playfields. There is intense pressure of population in our country and a great deal of determination is needed to see that places where sport is practised do not gradually disappear.

The Union and State Governments have obviously a lot to do to promote sports so that it becomes a way of life with us. It must, however, be realised that sport is basically a voluntary activity. Unless a person himself wants to participate in sport, no amount of facilities or incentives are going to get him to play. Voluntary effort and voluntary organisations, therefore, have a major role in the promotion of sport in the country. It is for them to create a climate where people voluntarily take to sport as a healthy means of recreation. As in other spheres of voluntary effort, the public institutions can only be expected to buttress and support voluntary effort. It is, therefore, necessary that the national sports federations, State associations and local clubs, which all embody voluntary effort in the field of sport, should become active in increasing the number of people involved in active sport. Similarly, the local bodies like the panchayats and panchayat samitis in the rural areas, and the municipalities and city corporations in urban areas should attach due importance to the improvement of the health and fitness of their constituents through sports activities. Sport is not merely a recreational activity but it has also great social significance. It is through sports that people of different castes, creeds and ages come together in a spirit of healthy competition and forget everything except that they are sportsmen and women. Sport is thus a great promoter of social harmony and this significant aspect needs to be recognised adequately.

I am happy to see that almost one-third of the Arjuna awardees for 1982 are women. It has often been said that the foundation of any achievement in later life is laid in the home during childhood. This is particularly true of sports also. It is, therefore, necessary that more and more women and girls come out and take part in sport activities. While this will not only be good for themselves, it will also provide a background for the future generation whose foundation is laid by the mother in the home. At present, the number of girls that take part in sport and physical activities in the country is quite small as compared to boys. I am waiting for the day when women and girls will account for half of the persons taking active part in sport activities.

Not so long ago boys and girls from the universities and colleges used to provide a substantial proportion of our national level sportspersons. Unfortunately, this is no longer so. Sports culture in institutions of higher education seems to have been gradually declining. Sports facilities that already exist in universities and colleges often remain only partially utilised and scant concern is felt by the student community in improving their physical fitness and taking part in sports activities as a means of healthy recreation. Sport, which can lay the foundation of a healthy and fit existence throughout life, is neglected. This is a cause for concern. All right thinking people particularly, educationists, media people and public men should all combine their efforts, to foster and develop sports culture in universities and colleges. Universities should be nurseries not only of future intellectuals and professionals but also of great sportsmen and women. Against this background, the efforts made by the Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar have to be commended and they deserve special congratulations for winning the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy for excellence among the universities in the field of sports for four years running.

In the end, I congratulate all those who have won Arjuna Awards for the years 1981 and 1982 and have joined that select band of sportsmen and women who earlier won these Awards. May this sequence of ever increasing excellence in sport go on.

I thank Shri Buta Singh, Minister of Sports for inviting me here and giving me an opportunity to meet and honour our outstanding sportsmen and women.

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“The greatness of our society was achieved not by the victories of groups or factions over each other but by reconciliation—a synthesis which enriched and fostered a composite culture. Let us all join together and add to this precious heritage.”

— Giani Zail Singh

“It is well-known that the quality of a civilization is recognised by the treatment meted out to its minorities and its women. India has been fair in its treatment of both and has provided opportunities to all groups to shape their destinies according to the best of their abilities. Minorities enjoy equal rights with majority. Women have come to occupy high places in every field—politics, law, education, science, business, industry and other professions. They have been marching ahead along with men in all walks of life. The most recent illustration that comes to mind is the climbing of the Mount Everest by an Indian woman.”

— Giani Zail Singh